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RUSH COUNTY BEGINNINGS

Eleanor Parsons Arnold

For countless years the land we know as Rush County was a woodland with towering tress which had never known an axe. Pure streams drained these forests, but there were also many swampy areas. Under the trees flourished a diversified animal and plant life, many of which no longer exist in this area. Indians ranged the land and the streams, but their nomadic hunter's life scarcely left an imprint on the land around them. Leaves and fallen timber decayed and settled into the top soil, building up fertility for generations yet to come. "Never-failing springs" bubbled up clear water.

To the east the white men were slowly pushing their way westward, and on January 15, 1819, a treaty was signed at St. Mary's, Ohio, with the Indians. They agreed upon receipt of certain amounts of money and guarantees of protected residence, to move west of the Mississippi River. Upon their departure, government surveyors moved in, to survey the vacated acreage. On Monday, October 1, 1820, the Brookville land office opened these lands for sale. Sale of the rich land had been eagerly awaited, and many purchases were made in the first weeks. John Arnold purchased ground in what is now Rush County on the first day. In the three months remaining in 1820, 168 persons made entries of land. In 1821, 278 more entries were made.

These first settlers had been preceded by what were called squatters. These were people who had come in while it was still Indian territory and settled. In general they had been there six months to a year previous to the land sale. Many purchased the land on which they had settled and became permanent residents.

Rush County was lucky in that most purchasers of land came directly here and set to work to improve the land. In some places land was bought up by speculators who simply held title and did nothing to improve it, while waiting for prices to rise.

The early settlers were as varied as their backgrounds. I quote Dr. John Arnold, "Every man was a picked man, one who had volunteered to lead the forlorn labor of civilization against the rugged powers of nature. They were brave, patient, perservering and hopeful, determined to succeed . . . The cool and calculating Yankee was found side by side with the generous and inquisitive Kentuckian; the proud Virginian beside the plodding Pennslyvanian Dutchman, the quiet and peaceable Quakers from the Carolinas, by the side of the wild and reckless Tennessean, and here and there was a grave Englishman or warm-hearted and quick-tempered Irishman."

When the pioneers moved onto their newly-purchased land, they found fertile soil and a fine potential, but they also found almost unimaginable difficulties awaiting them.

The first and imperative chore was to clear the forests and get crops into the ground to support themselves. Trees were the enemy and were gotten rid of in any practical way. At first, even their simple horse or oxen drawn tools could not be used because of stumps and roots, so crops were tended with hoes. The men's hunting in those days was not for sport, but for survival, as the meat they brought home provided their family with its chief sustenance. The women bore and raised children, spun and wove and often worked side by side with their husbands in the fields.

Times were strenuous, but these hardy people had come to the new land to make a good home for themselves, and their descendants, so they set to work to do it at once. With cooperation and neighborliness they raised their log barns and houses, cleared their land, and found time for singing schools, husking bees and shooting matches.

With new settlers coming in rapidly and settlements on the increase, it was felt that the time had come to form a county here. Up until this time the land had been a part of Delaware County. The Indiana Legislature of 1821 passed an enabling act to go into effect on April 1, 1882, making a separate county. Meeting at the cabin of Stephen Sims, at a spot just south of the present Rushville, a board of commissioners began to set up the framework of county government.

Six townships were marked off: Union, Ripley, Noble, Washington, Richland and Orange. Details of county government were worked out, and, at a subsequent meeting, the county seat was fixed at Rushville. Dr. William Laughlin, who owned much of what now comprises the city of Rushville, and Zachariah Hodges donated land for the town, which grew rapidly from this start. Dr. Laughlin had been a student of and friend to Dr. Benjamin Rush, a famous physician in Phildelphia and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He asked that the county be named Rush and the county seat Rushville in honor of this man.

Settlements in other parts of the county which were made very early included a group in what is now Noble Township, a group centered around Ben Davis Creek and Arnold's post office and store in Union Township, a nucleus in what is now Richland Township, and a settlement in Ripley Township.

Later, other townships were organized, a few at a time, till the county included the previously named townships, plus seven others; Green, Rushville, Walker, Center, Jackson, Anderson and Posey (named in order of organization). At the March term of Commissioner's Court in 1859, a general reorganization into twelve townships with boundaries as they are at present was made, and we lost Green Township permanently.

Meanwhile a town was growing up in Rushville. The first sale of lots was on July 29, 1882, at Dr. Lauglin's mill. There was spirited bidding. Not long after the sale the new owners of the lots came with their axes and began to clear the land. They helped each other and within a year there was a good-sized settlement.

The streets were dirt or mud, according to the weather, and stumps still protruded from them. The first houses were built on the streets surrounding the public square and up and down Main Street for a block either way, with a few facing the river between Main and Morgan Streets. The streets out of town were called by the name of the settlement they went to; that is, the Knightstown Road, the Brookville Road, the Shelbyville Road, the Connersville Road and the Indianapolis Road. The north and south streets were Morgan, Main, Perkins and Julian. The three besides Main were named for the first county commissioners; Amaziah Morgan, Jehu Perkins and John Julian.

The east and west streets were, beginning at the river; Water Street (still called so); Noble street (First), named for Governor Noble; Ruth Street (Second) named for Dr. Laughlin's wife; Elizabeth Street (Third), named for the wife of Dr. Laughlin's brother, Wilson; and Jennings (Fourth), named for Governor Jennings.

It is said that the first store of goods was brought in and sold by a Mr. Patterson from Pittsburgh. Reu Pugh opened a dry goods store. The first tavern (we would call it a hotel) was kept by William Hart. These and many others started the commercial life of Rushville.

The first roads were merely trails, blazed through the forests. Gradually they were widened and became dirt roads, bad enough at best, and impassable at worst. Corduroy roads, "guaranteed to shorten the spine," were built by simply laying logs crosswise of the road. Gravel roads finally became universal, and only in late years have been generally superseded by hard surface roads.

The county's rich farms were now slowly coming under cultivation and the farmer began to reap some reward for his years of hard work. The virgin soil grew everything luxuriantly—unfortunately this included weeds. By the 1840's and 50's log cabins were being replaced by houses of brick and frame construction, many of which still stand. The country was more settled. There were nearer neighbors and a settled form of government.

The general spirit of optimism of the citizens caused them to predict only the finest things for Rush County. They spoke of their home in superlatives; the richest land, the finest situation; the most progressive people, and the most promising future.

They would have agreed completely with the itinerant preacher who was addressing a group at the old log church at the Alger burying ground. He began by telling his audience what a wonderful nation they lived in, then by degrees he began to praise Indiana as the very best state in the Union, and finally got down to allowing that since Rush County was the best county in the best state in the best nation in the world, they were as near Paradise as they would ever be on this earth.

We of Rush County in 1972 are the heirs of these hardy people who came here 150 years ago to make a home in the wilderness. We owe them our thanks and admiration for the task they completed so well.

TRAGEDY OF LONG AGO

Eleanor Parsons Arnold

In the October term of 1827, the county's first murder case was tried. The details of this case are of interest. Alexander Young had a beautiful 17-year-old daughter who loved John Points, a fine-looking but reckless young man. After Mr. Young denied consent for their marriage, they decided to elope. One morning when Mr. Young was supposedly absent, young Points came on horseback to take his bride away with him. Unfortunately, Squire Young returning only a few seconds after their departure, seized his rifle, took a shortcut through the fields and hid behind a tree. As the young couple approached, he shot. The ball grazed the head of the daughter and killed young Points.

The daughter was the chief witness against Squire Young at his trial, relating the facts calmly and quietly. Influenced by his evident grief and remorse, the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter with two years in prison (which was later pardoned by the governor). The daughter gradually sank into a state of partial alienation of the mind, from which she never recovered. Squire Young, though released and at home, was said to have never smiled again.

COURTHOUSES AND JAILS

Eleanor Parsons Arnold

When civilization comes to a land, two of the first prerequisites are a courthouse where legal business can be transacted and, unfortunately, a jail where malefactors and, at this time, debtors can be kept. Rush County felt these needs immediately after its start, also.

The enabling Act of the Indiana State Legislature which made Rush County also specified in Section four; "The Circuit Courts and all other courts of the County of Rush, shall be held at the house of Stephen Sims aforesaid, until suitable accomodations can be had at the seat of justice for said county." This was indeed the place for the first court sessions; later courts were held at the home of Robert Thompson and others, until the courthouse was completed.

Courts can be held in various places, but there is no substitute for a jail, so this was the first building accepted by the legal board of commissioners, at their November meeting in 1823. The builder was Richard Hackleman. It was constructed of hewed logs, one foot square and was a two-story structure. Accounts differ as to construction. The 1879 atlas describes it with the second story being reached by an outside stairway, and access to the lower floor being through a trapdoor in the floor of this second story. The prisoner entered by a ladder which was then drawn up. If this version be true, it must certainly have had a great psychological effect on the hapless prisoner. The 1888 history talks rather more prosaically of a door at one end of the first floor made of bars one-half inch thick. Both agree that there was never an escape from the sturdy structure.

The first courthouse must have been a rather pretentious structure for these raw surroundings. Its specifications are a matter of record, though no picture or eyewitness sketch have survived for us. It was a two-story brick structure with a cupola, shutters and fan-lighted doors. It was accepted at the November term of the commissioners, 1826, and its total cost was $2500. It served the county well until 1848, when because of its small size it was replaced by the second courthouse.

Melvin Gray, local talented artist, undertook to produce for the cover of this booklet a sketch of the first courthouse as it must have looked at its completion. Detailed specifications are on file in the present courthouse, but when it came to the matter of the cupola, the specifications stated only; "The dimension, magnitude, size and shape of the roof and cupola together with the materials of which they are to be constructed to be assimilated to the Connersville courthouse roof and cupola as near as may be." Fortunately, although no sketch of the Fayette County courthouse remains either, their cupola's specifications are on file. Using this combination of facts, Mr. Gray drew for us the representation of how the 1826 structure must have looked, which appears on the cover. Rush County is indebted to him for this detective work.

The building was painted red with green shutters, white cupola and trim, and brown roof.

The second courthouse, pictures of which still exist, was a larger structure, 50 ft. by 80 ft., and was built at a total cost of $12,000. It was ready for occupancy in March, 1848. Architecturally, it was quite distinguished, with a classic facade and a larger cupola. This courthouse, standing in the midst of a cluster of trees and surrounded by its iron fence and hitchrack was a feature of the town until the spring of 1896, when it was torn down to make room for the third and still-existing courthouse.

The plans for the present courthouse were strongly opposed, and there was a board meeting on January 15, 1896 to consider remonstrances and hear arguments in favor of postponing the building of the courthouse "until the hard times had passed." These they rejected and the contract was let to P. H. McCormack and Co., for the sum of $157,143. During the time of construction the old Christian church at the southwest corner of Second and Morgan Streets was used for county offices and court purposes. The completed building was accepted by the commissioners on February 2, 1898. At night the lights were turned on and crowds of citizens inspected the fine structure. The next afternoon the county officers began moving in. The final cost of the structure, including extras, furniture, electric wiring, cement walks, sewer, power house, tunnel and connections, fees and remodeling the jail, was $257,385.38. This was considered so very expensive that it was a campaign issue for the next two elections. Time has justified the expense, however, as this is still one of the finest courthouses in the state.

Meanwhile, two more jails had been constructed. The first log jail was declared unsafe in 1845 and Royce P. Cobb was given a contract to erect a new prison and jailer's residence for $3,250. The jail was built on the east side of the public square, 20 by 20 feet square, two stories high and of stone construction. The floors were of cut stone ten inches thick. The lower rooms were covered with sheet iron and the windows covered by heavy iron bars.

The present jail was built in 1862, at a cost of $10,800, but was much smaller, occupying only what is now the living quarters of the sheriff. In 1896 the present cell section was added, almost doubling its size. Still to be seen at the jail are the keys to the original log jail which once locked in Edward Swanson, the only person ever hung for murder in Rush County.

MARKETING STOCK

Sarah Newby

In the early 40's many hogs were raised in this township, but none could be sold until early fall or during the winter, as there were no "ice plants" nor cold storage arrangements in which to keep the meat. Then the hog buyers would engage hogs to be delivered at stated times and places, from which they were driven afoot to the Cincinnati market.

The hogs were weighed, one caught at a time, and put into a pair of breechings of old-style harness, with steel yards hooked into the big rings, and a lever attached to the steel yards to hoist the hog being weighed. Later a "coop" was made so that five or six could be weighed at once. Often drove's weights were "guessed off."

Large droves of hogs were divided into smaller droves, and men and boys assigned to each. The stoutest men to the last, the largest and fattest, so that if any "gave out" they could be lifted into a wagon taken for that purpose. The "elm peelers" and "razor backs" were trotters, and hard to keep bunched. Ten days to three weeks were required for the trip to Cincinnati, depending on the weather and the condition of the roads.

The hogs fed on the mast and the nuts in the forest along the road way and usually gained in weight.

Nathan Pearson, in 1909 when eighty-six years of age, said "the largest drove he ever accompanied from here was 2,270. One time going with a drove of 600, seventy of the hogs could not swim across Whitewater at Connersville, Indiana, and they had to be ferried over. A man grasped two hogs, each by an ear, and guided them across. The river was filled with slush ice, waist deep, and it required three hours to accomplish the task. The mud roads after being passed over by the hogs were terrible. The drivers' clothing became so mud-splashed that the men would go in rivers and creeks and wash the mud off; then go in and stand before blazing fires while their garments dried on them. About twenty days were consumed in the going and two days in the return trip. For this labor the men received 37½ cents per day.

Henry C. Phelps in 1845 at the age of sixteen began to make trips to Cincinnati, Ohio, for the Carthage merchants and stock buyers. He made eighteen trips on foot driving hogs to market. He and Isaac Hill and Levi Hill as teamsters made many trips taking produce, and returning with merchandise. Many barrels packed with eggs in oats—eggs two cents per dozen—and firkins of butter at five or six cents a pound were thus "shipped out."

Thomas W. Henley also helped drive droves of hogs for Henry B. Hill to Cincinnati through rain and snow for 37½ cents per day

Benjamin F. Stinger states, "When about fifteen years old, I helped drive a flock of sheep from Carthage to North Manchester. A Mr. Comstock of Liberty Mills brought up 969 sheep and coralled them on the late Henry B. Hill's farm. Mr. Comstock rode horseback. Nicholas Reiter, an old Dutchman, who worked for my father weaving coverlets, Kelitah Clark, a brother of the late John M. Clark, and I made the party. I received 37½ cents per day, walked all the way, being barefoot part of the time. We were a week going, and three days returning from North Manchester. The first night we stayed at the home of Eli Stafford near Greensboro. Somewhere along route, probably about Anderson, Walker Winslow, once a resident of Carthage, joined us. He was agent for a patent beehive. Kelitah Clark afterwards started to North Carolina, but as nothing was ever heard from him, his family supposed he met foul death. He had made frequent trips to and from the south, usually by foot and the stage."

During the time the K & S railroad was in operation considerable shipping was done from Carthage. Jesse Henley, Sr., bought and shipped hogs to Madison, Indiana, to a dealer by the name of White, during the fall and winter only. He would collect several, often holding them in Henry Newby's "hog lot" a few days until ready to ship a trainload of fifteen or twenty cars, about twenty to a car. He worked at this three seasons, when White went broke, and Henley lost $500 in labor, etc.

Once when returning from the sale of a shipment of stock to Cincinnati, Jesse Henley, Sr., was "shadowed" by a suspicious acting stranger. Mr. Henley bought a ticket to Shelbyville, Indiana, the stranger did likewise —at Shelbyville he stood listening near the ticket window and bought a ticket to Carthage, too. He sat near Jesse Henley on the trains. It became dark soon after leaving Shelbyville, and the stranger dozed, knowing when the Carthage station was called he would be awakened.

Mr. Henley took the advantage, sought the conductor, with whom he was acquainted, and asked him to slacken the speed of the train just south of Carthage near the present residence of Randolph Reames, so that he might get off. He did,—the stranger dozed as the train sped on. Mr. Henley walked hurriedly to his home (on the late Milton Kerkless farm). He did not sleep that night because of thoughts of what the stranger might do. Early the next morning (Sunday) he delivered the money due to persons in the neighborhood for stock sold, went to Carthage, sought one of the firm of "Hill and Henley" and put the remainder of the money in the store safe—there being no bank. Then he strolled casually to the "Provo House," was greeted by acquaintances who inquired concerning his business trip. He beheld on the porch the stranger, who appeared startled and flushed and cross and went in the hotel. His "hold up" foiled, the stranger left town on the first train the next morning.

INDIANS OF RUSH COUNTY

Harold and Leona Michel

Many centuries before white men came to Indiana, Indians were living here. They had dark hair, dark eyes and copper colored skin. They wandered about in search for food.

Later other Indians, whom we call the Mound Builders, moved in. Their civilization was higher than that of the very early Indian. Their mounds indicate their capacity for directed work and that they lived a more settled life. While the Mound Builders have not left as much evidence in Rush County as in other places in Indiana, there are distinct evidences of their presence here in a prehistoric time. Several burial mounds were formerly visible in the county, especially in the southern part. After the trees were cleared and the soil cultivated, most of these mounds were leveled. Many times they are remembered only as neighborhood traditions.

Years ago there was still a mound in Posey Township. When the first settlers came it was said to be one hundred six feet in diameter and fifteen feet in height. It was connected by a sort of ditch with a smaller mound. Many years ago the mound was covered with beech trees. The felling of these trees and the yearly plowing of the land has gradually made it level with the surrounding land. In the 1880's, Louis Moffit, owner of the land, dug into the larger mound and found parts of several skeletons, copper bands encircling the bones of the arms, wrists and ankles, bone beads and two curiously perforated pieces of jawbone with a single tusk-like tooth. It had somewhat the appearance of a whistle, but its purpose was not evident to those who examined it.

In the 1920's another such mound was explored on the old Gary farm in Posey Township. In it were found pieces of pottery, beads of many kinds and the skeleton of a gigantic man.

These mound-building Indians left Indiana long before the white man came.

THE DELAWARES

The Indians who were in Rush County when the first white settlers came were Delawares. They were called Delawares by the whites because their original home had been along the Delaware River. Their Indian name was Lenni-Lenappes or the Chihohockie. They were called the "grandfathers" by the other members of their language group, the Algonquians. They were the most advanced and civilized of the East Coast tribes. They began very early to take on the ways of the white man and many became Christians. They were peaceful at heart and preferred to live unmolested; therefore their history is one of flight, both from the whites and the warlike Iriquois tribes.

After several migrations from their original home along the seaboard, they settled yet once again, this time mostly along the Whitewater and Wabash Rivers in Indiana.

Their principal village in Rush County was near what later became known as "Arnold's Home," the farm homestead of John Arnold, on the banks of the Ben Davis Creek in Union Township. They called the creek Mahoning, in remembrance of a river at a former home in Pennsylvania. Later the creek became known as the Ben Davis, named after the Delaware chief.

A treaty signed at St. Mary's, Ohio, January 15, 1819, forced the tribe to move farther west by giving up all Indian claims to land east of the Mississippi.

GLIMPSES OF INDIAN LIFE

In an article, "Reminiscences of an Old Settler," written by Dr. John Arnold, and published in the Rushville Republican in 1875, is an account of Indian life in Rush County, which is partially quoted.

"Their huts or wigwams were made of forest materials. They were usually made of bark. They had a dome-shaped frame made of bent branches, covered with strips of bark. Here the braves, to their barbaric music, performed their war dance, chanting their deeds of daring on the battlefield; or, smoking their pipes, recounted successful hunting trips for deer, bear and panther. Here the patient squaw nursed her papoose and dreamed pleasant dreams of the future of her offspring. Here the boys threw their tomahawks, wrestled, ran races and engaged in various athletic sports. Hundreds of beech trees near the encampment bore many scars from the stroke of the tomahawk.

"The most characteristic memento was the scalp tree, a large, tall tree on whose bark was recorded the number of scalps taken. The marks were one above another, beginning about two feet above the ground and running up twenty or twenty-five feet. The emblem for a man was a round skullcap; that for a woman, the cap surmounted by a roll (to represent twisted hair); that for a child was a broad, horizontal line. This tree was a great curiosity to strangers, but it is no longer to be seen. It was destroyed by a violent storm many years ago."

The Indian men wore little clothing in the summer, usually a breech cloth and mocassins. In winter they had deerskin shirts and leggings of leather.

The Indian warriors spent their time hunting, fishing, and fighting unfriendly tribes. They made their own weapons, which included bows, arrows, knives and war clubs.

The Indian women wore long petticoats that fell below their knees. Their dresses were shorter than their petticoats. Sometimes they had a shawl around their shoulders.

They liked to paint their faces with bright colors. They wore many ornaments; bracelets, necklaces and earrings. Some men wore their hair long, while others wore it short.

Although these Indians were peaceable in the village where they lived and did not molest the white settlers here, they were known to go off for days at a time and return with several fresh scalps. They would often go south into Kentucky to do their plundering and were often known to have killed whole families of white settlers.

Dr. John Arnold had one room in his home which he kept locked. His grandson, Harvey M. Arnold, Sr., says he can remember going to this room often with his grandfather. In it were many relics which the Indians had given him and which he had purchased. One thing stood out in the boy's memory—an Indiana suit, probably the suit of an Indian warrior. Fastened to the belt were six scalps.

BEN DAVIS AND BLAZING STAR

Ben Davis, a large powerful warrior and chief of the tribe which lived near Arnold's home, lived here for many years. He was a deadly foe to the whites and frequently led raids into what is now Kentucky. He had taken part in most of the battles of Indians against whites for possession of the present states of Ohio and Indiana. He was true to his friends, deadly to his enemies, and fond of fire water. He was a representative man of his race, a fair type of the brave, crafty and boastful.

After the defeat of the Indians at Tippecanoe, they were compelled to sell their land and move westward. Ben Davis, even though he knew he was disliked by many whites, occasionally revisited his former hunting grounds, often coming back to his home on Ben Davis Creek. In 1820 he encamped on Blue Creek, about three miles from Brookville. While there he visited daily in the town, drinking. While imbibing in Widow Adair's tavern, he was boasting of his bloody deeds. Among these was the story of how he and his band had surprised a lonely settler in Kentucky, killing the whole family except for one boy, who had been away from the cabin at the time. The boy, although hotly pursued, had escaped. In the tavern at this time was one very intently interested listener, who now heard, from the lips of the chieftain, the particulars of the story of his family's massacre; for he was that boy. He left the room quietly.

The next day Ben Davis did not appear in Brookville, nor did he appear the second day. On the second day someone passing his camp found him with a bullet hole in his forehead, with his pipe fallen by his side. He had finally fallen victim to a private vengeance. Although it was generally known who had killed him, no judicial investigation was ever made because they felt he had been justified.

Another Indian, who is well-remembered in the Carthage area, was a Delaware named "Blazing Star" or Ka-ki-o-kah. Years after the forced migration of the tribe he returned and made Carthage his home. He was of much interest to the people, especially the younger generation. He was a good marksman and enjoyed hunting. At his death, he was given a grand burial in Riverside Cemetery there, where a fine tombstone was later erected in his memory. This tombstone still stands.

Author's note: We wish to express our thanks for the personal interview with Harvey M. Arnold, Sr., and for the material we obtained from the scrapbooks of Dr. John and Dr. W. W. Arnold. Material for this article was also obtained from the Gary and Thomas Centennial History of Rush County, plus other sources.

PIONEER WOMEN

Written for the Centennial celebration, 1922

Fanny Gowdy Mansfield

What changes have been wrought in the brief span covered by the lives of these women! What history made! What progress they witnessed in the material and intellectual development of the country! They assisted in building the first homes, in converting a wilderness into a productive country, and laid deep and strong the foundation upon which has been erected the super-structure of our splendid civilization.

Most of the pioneer women of Rush county journeyed to Indiana in "prairie schooners" (covered wagons) drawn by horses or ox teams. These trips, some times occupying weeks, and covering long distances over unimproved roads, were slow, tedious, and characterized by discomfort. The wagons were loaded with the simple household furniture, and such supplies as the family required on the trip, and not infrequently the outfit included a cow led behind the wagon. When the day's journey was ended the family, or company of settlers traveling together, camped by the wayside, cooking their food over open fires, and sleeping in the wagons, or on improvised beds spread beneath the vehicles. The wagons in which they traveled served as homes, after their arrival, until cabins could be built out of logs cut from trees on the land entered as homesteads. But the men and women who came to Rush county seeking homes a century ago were inured to hardships, and their courage was undaunted by circumstances which would be regarded as insurmountable obstacles by their descendants who now enjoy the advantages of the civilization which their endeavors made possible.

Some of the pioneer women came as children with their parents, others came as brides, and still others as mothers of families, braving with heroic fortitude, and even enthusiasm, the hardships and deprivations incident to migrating to, and settling in an undeveloped country.

The houses they built, and in which they made their homes, represented a type peculiar to the period. They consisted of one or two rooms, and sometimes a "lean-to," used as a loom or weaving room. They were built

of logs, often unhewn tree trunks with the bark left on, notched at the ends in a way to hold them in place, and at the same time leave as little space between the logs as possible. The spaces were "chinked" with sticks and plastered over with mud. The roof was made of clapboards about three feet in length, and from six to eight inches wide, rived out of straight-grained oak. These boards were laid upon poles extending from one gable end of the building to the other, carried up at an angle to give the roof the proper slant. Nails were not available, and the boards were held in place by timbers fastened to the joist, or in supporting poles, with wooden pins. Floors were made of "puncheons," or hewn slabs, laid upon log "sleepers."

An open fire place served the double purpose of heating the house and for cooking the food. The fireplace, which often covered a large portion of one end of the room, was a source of comfort in winter, and of homely cheer in all seasons. The lower part of the chimney was built of logs, over the inside of which was laid a heavy coating of clay. The upper portion was constructed of pieces of wood, uniform in size, laid one above the other, with ends overlapping to hold them in place, filled between and plastered on the inside with mud.

The doors and windows were framed with roughly hewn timbers. Doors were put together with wooden pins in lieu of nails, hung upon wooden hinges and fastened with a wooden latch. A string attached to the latch passed through a small hole in the door, so that it could be raised from the outside. At night, or when intruders were not wanted, the string was drawn in, and from this custom came the expression, "the latch strings hangs out."

Cooking utensils consisted of pots, kettles, skillets and pans. Wheat and corn bread were baked in an iron oven which stood upon three legs above beds of live coals, and was covered with a flange-rimmed lid, upon which could be heaped hot embers. Most of the bread eaten by the pioneers was made of corn meal designated as corn bread, pone and johnny-cake. The bread and pone were baked in the oven, but the johnny-cake was cooked on a board in front of the fire. Potatoes were roasted in hot ashes, and coffee boiled over the open fire.

Light was provided by primitive lamps made by laying a strip of cloth, or wick, in a bowl of melted animal fat, with one end of the wick projecting over the edge of the vessel. The oil was absorbed by the wick, which would burn as long as the supply lasted. Other methods of lighting were by tallow dips and home-made candles. The former were made by dipping a twisted cotton string into melted tallow. When the string was withdrawn the fat which adhered to it would cool quickly, and the operation was repeated until the dip assumed the desired form. Candles were made by pouring melted tallow into metal molds. The molds were so formed that when the tallow cooled the candles could be easily withdrawn.

Game, including deer, wild turkeys, geese, ducks, pheasants and quail, and fish in great varieties, which abounded in the forests and streams, furnished meat for the table, and with vegetables that grew prolifically in the rich virgin soil, the pioneers were assured of a plentiful supply of food.

In addition to their numerous and arduous household duties, the pioneer women helped to clear the land and cultivate the soil. They clipped fleeces from the backs of sheep, washed, carded and spun the wool into yarn, and on hand looms wove it into blankets and into cloth from which they made clothing. They also knitted socks, stockings and mittens for the members of their families. Included in the industrial achievements of the pioneer women was the making of beautiful applique and patch-work quilts. When the labor involved in the production of these various articles is contemplated, the achievements of our maternal ancestors seem little less than marvelous.

There were few doctors among the early settlers of the county, medicine was scarce, expensive and difficult to obtain, and the pioneer women were often compelled by necessity to assume the role of doctors and nurses. The simple remedies they applied in cases of emergency were wonderfully eficacious, and the strong constitutions and fine physiques of their descendants evidence the fact that the simple lives they lived made for the conservation of health and physical vitality.

The homes of the pioneers were frequently remote from other places of human habitation, roads were few and often impassable. Some of the roads designated as "corduroy," were built by placing logs side by side on the ground, and a journey in a cart, or lumber wagon without springs, the usual means of transportation at that time was a slow and extremely uncomfortable experience.

Schools were few and far between, and the instructions provided were elemental in the extreme. To the pioneer mothers fell the lot of supplementing the education to be obtained in the primitive schools with instructions at home.

Diversions were few in the rural districts but the simple amusements were indulged in with enthusiasm, and the neighborly spirit common to the period was emphasized by the interest with which they invested community gatherings. These meetings, like other phases of life were characterized by the custom of applying their energies to things practical and useful. Corn huskings and quilting bees were made the occasion for both work and socialbility. House and barn-raisings, log-rollings and like events, which brought together the residents of the community, were attended with social features, including special dinner or supper, and simple games and amusements.

Out of these conditions, an undeveloped country, covered with dense forests, much of it swamp, infested with malaria, and abandoned by the aborigines only a century ago, has evolved Rush county, one of the richest, most productive and attractive sections of the great Hoosier commonweath. And in celebrating the centennial of the county proper credit and honor should be given to the pioneer women for the heroic and conspicuous part they played in its development and progress.

THE INDIANIAN.

WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS, THERE IS MY COUNTRY.

VOL. 1. Rushville, Indiana; Wednesday, May 11, 1831. No. 48.

THE INDIANIAN

Is published Weekly, by

WILLIAM J. BROWN.

TERMS.

Two Dollars per annum, if paid in advance, or Two Dollars and Fifty cents within or at the end of the year.

Payment made within three months from the time of subscribing, will be considered in advance. No paper will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the Editor.

Advertisements inserted at the usual rates.

AGENTS.

The following gentlemen are requested to act as agents for this paper:

Abner Conde, Esq. *Moscow.*
Nathan Tompkins, P. M. *Little Flat Rock.*
Moses Clifford, Esq. *Near West Liberty.*
Joseph Chapman, *Greenfield.*
John Hawkins, *Indianapolis.*
Col. Thomas Hendricks, *Greensburg.*
John M'Pike, Esq. *Lawrenceburg.*

mediate payment, and any person having demands against the estate, are requested to present the same legally authenticated for settlement, within one year from this date. The estate is supposed to be solvent.

WILLIAM GRANT,
Administrator.

April 16, 1831. 45

NOTICE.

The subscriber informs his friends and the Public in general, that he still carries on the

Tailoring Business,

at his old stand, opposite Uriah Washburn's Saddler's shop, where he is prepared to do work in the neatest manner, for the Farmer, the Dandy, the Methodist and the Quaker.

JOHN F. IRVIN.

April 6, 1831. 44

Administrator's Sale.

There will be offered at public sale on Saturday, the 30th day of April, inst. at the late dwelling of James F. Cavitt, deceased, 1 mile north west of Rushville, the following property to wit:

Horses, Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, One small Wagon, One Cart Farming Utensils, Household furniture, and other articles too tedious to mention.

A credit of 12 months will be given by the purchaser giving note with approved security. Due attendance will be given by me

WILLIAM CAVITT,
Administrator.

April 2, 1831. 44*3w

NOTICE.

I shall attend at Rushville on Friday the 29th of this instant, to receive all the arms that belong to Wm. S. Bussell's company, that are in the 42nd regiment. Any person wishing to deliver them before that time, will please to leave them at Robert Thompson's, and capt. Bussell will give up their receipts at the Battalion muster at Smelser's mill.

ABNER HACKLEMAN,
Lieut.

April 13, 1831. 45

State of Indiana, Rush county, ss.

Joseph Frazee, sen. vs Joseph Frazee, jun William Frazee, & Ephraim Frazee. *Minor heirs of Ephraim Frazee deceased.* } On petition for partition of real estate.

NOTICE.

Is hereby given that application will be made at the next term of the Rush circuit court, for the appointment of commissioners to make partition of the west half of section 13, range 10, town 13, lying in the county of Rush and state of Indiana.

WM. J. BROWN, Attorney for Joseph Frazee, sen. applicant.

March 29. 43

Administrator's Notice.

The undersigned has taken out letters of Administration on the estate of James F. Cavitt, deceased, late of Rush county, Indiana. All persons having any just demands against said estate, are requested to present them duly proven for settlement within one year from this date. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment. The estate is supposed to be solvent.

WILLIAM CAVITT,
April 2, 1831. Administrator.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons, having demands against the estate of James Davies dec. of Rush county Indiana, are requested to present their claims legally authenticated to the Subscriber, to whom letters testamentary have been granted, by the Clerk of the Probate Court, for the County aforesaid. And those who are indebted to the estate are requested to make payment. The estate is supposed to be solvent and it is desirable to settle the business of the estate as soon as possible.

Rush County Ia. February 1st 1831. SUSANNAH DAVIES
Executrix of said estate.

3w.

Land Agency.

WILLIAM J. BROWN,

Will act as an agent for non-resident land holders for lands lying in Rush or the adjoining counties. He will

Receive Money, Pay Taxes,

And give any information relative to land that may be required. His charges will be moderate.

Rushville, June 26, 1830. 10

TAKEN UP.

BY John P. Banks of Rushville Township, Rush county, Indiana; on the 15th day of February 1831 one Bay Horse supposed to be ten or eleven years old about fifteen hands high, and his right hind foot white up to the pasture joint and several saddle marks, had one shoe on his right fore foot. and no other marks or brands. Appraised at thirty dollars by James Lower and Isaac Garver.

This 24th day of Feb. 1831, a true copy from my book of estrays.

PAUL RANDALL.
Justice of the Peace.

No. 42—3w.

TAKEN UP

BY John Bates, of Rushville Township Rush County, one estray Bay mare; with a blaze face her left hind foot white, up to the pastern joint, and marked on the brest and sides with the gears, about fourteen and a half hands high, supposed to be ten or twelve years old, Appraised to twenty seven dollars and a half by Sampson Casady and David Kenning. Posted bofore me on the 28th day of March 1831.

A true copy from my Book of Estrays.

PAUL RANDALL,
Justice of the Peace.

JOB PRINTING,
Neatly executed at
This Office.

SUGAR
WILL BE RECEIVED IN PAYMENT FOR SUBSCRIPTION AT THIS OFFICE.

Above and to the left are reproduced selected parts of the oldest Rush County newspaper still in existence. The property of Mary Sleeth, it was given to the Rush County museum at her death. It was probably preserved because of its allusion to her grandfather, Wm. Frame, running for office. Below and on the following page are additional items copied from it.

NEW
Drug Store
Wm. H. Evens,

Has just received and is now opening in the town of Rushville, Ind., a well selected assortment of Drugs, Medicines, and Oils by the barrel or gallon.

Varnish, Dye Stuffs, Family & Patent Medicines, Brandy and Wines of genuine quality.

ALSO

Dr. Samuel Thompson's Botanical Medicines, whose quality may be relied on, which he offers for sale wholesale and retail at reduced prices. Physicians, Painters, builders and others, wishing to purchase are desired to call and examine for themselves. Orders from a distance will be punctually attended to with correctness.

LIKEWISE

A quantity of good Spanish Sole Leather, and a first rate Patent Bark Mill.

April 20, 1831

For the County of Rush and State of Indiana, pursuant to notice a number of the Citizens of Rushville and its vicinity met at the office of Joseph Nicholas, Esq.

Whereupon Joseph Nicholas Esq., being called to the chair, the meeting was organized; and the following constitution was read and adopted:—

PREAMBLE

Considering the infinite importance of Sunday Schools, as the means of promoting the intellectual, moral and religious improvement of the community, we the subscribers, agree to form ourselves into a Sunday School Society, and adopt the following:

Editor's note: (The lengthy constitution is here summarized)

CONSTITUTION

1. The name shall be the Rush County Sunday School Union, auxiliary to the STATE SOCIETY.
2. Object is to open new and increase old schools, both in the county and beyond, to establish a depository to supply Sunday Schools with suitable books "on lowest terms possible, for ready money." To give "destitute" school books, "gratis," if the Union can afford it. "To stimulate and encourage each other in the instruction of the ignorant and to promote in the community a sense of the importance of religious education."
3. Anyone who contributes is a member and a five dollar contribution brings life membership. Any Sunday School may be a member and subject to reduced prices for books.

Articles four through ten give details of organization.

An election was then held for officers, whereupon Wm. B. Laughlin was elected President, William Bean, Esq., Vice President, Hon. Charles H. Test, Secretary, and Joseph Nicholas, Esq., Treasurer.

Board of Managers (together with the officers above named), Joseph McPike, Joseph Washburn, John B. Birt, Henry Nicholas, James Lowler, Samuel Barret, Conrad Sailor, Isaac Fower (probably Fowler), John Havens and Noble Junkin.

April 24, 1831

Mantua Making and Millinery

Mrs. Eliza Laughlin respectfully informs her friends, and the public, that she, together with a competent assistant, is prepared to make and repair

BONNETS and DRESSES

in the neatest manner, and latest fashion.

All orders will be promptly attended to in the upper room of W. B. Laughlin's Seminary

Rushville, May 4th, 1831

Going Snacks

Jonathan and his gal, one Sunday night were piteously bewailing their inability to attend a ball, which was to be in their neighborhood. At last, Jonathan jumped up as if he had been struck by a cannon ball. 'Su,' says he, I've nabbed a thought; Just throw in fifty cents of your ashes money, I'll hire out with Squire Brotheram, and git fifty cents more added to it, and we will buy a ticket and go snacks, and shave it down like Jehu. Su, 'tis no more than fair, you should pay half, you need'nt look so grouly.'

AUGUST ELECTION

For Governor
- Noah Noble,
- James Scot,
- Milton Stapp

Lieutenant Governor
- Amos Lane,
- Alexander S. Burnet,
- James Gregory,
- David Wallace

For Congress—3d district
- Oliver H. Smith,
- John Test,
- Joseph Holman,
- Jonathan McCarty,

For the legislature
- Marinus Willett,
- John Alley,
- Wm. P. Rush,
- Wm. Frame,
- John Wood,
- Wm. B. Laughlin

A FARM FOR SALE

One of the most pleasant and advantageous situations in the county containing

160 ACRES

adjoining the town of Rushville and binding two thirds of the town plat, on the north end; being that commanding prospect and well improved farm, late in the occupation of C. H. Veeder, Esq., and now of the subscriber. Those who may desire a good farm, well improved, and an elegant situation, are invited to view the premises. A reasonable credit may be expected upon a considerable part of the purchase money.

EVE VEEDER

Rushville, Ind. May 2d, 1831.

We have been requested to say that the Hon. William B. Laughlin will serve the people of this County, as a member of the House of Representatives, in the next General Assembly of this State, if elected.

Some eight or ten years ago there lived near the Log Jail in New Jersey a personage who became very eminent in the military line after he was elected to the office of Major. On the morning of the regimental parade, (being the next after election), the sun rose as usual, and nature seemed to have lost none of her attributes, when the new made Major determined to exercise a little, previous to associating with his superior officers. He accordingly mounted his own stoop, with all the consequence of a man in power, drew his sword and exclaimed:

"Attention the whole! Rear rank, take distance three paces back!"

He immediately stepped back and tumbled down cellar. His wife ran from the kitchen and cried out, "My dear, have you killed yourself?" "Go into the house woman (said he). What do you know about war!"

NEWSPAPERS OF RUSH COUNTY

A. Hartwell Coons

We have only the word of previous historians that the first newspaper to be published in Rush County made its appearance in 1822 and bore the colorful name of the "Dog Fennel Gazette." It was said to have been printed on an improvised press in the clearing that later became the city of Rushville.

Mythical or otherwise, we are asked to believe that the bed of the printing press was sawed from a sycamore stump, the platen a stout board, and the "devil's tail" or lever controlling the impression, a pole of proper size to give a good hand grasp! Anyone having access to type should also have had the opportunity to purchase more sophisticated equipment than that described by the early pioneers. It is altogether possible that the "Dog Fennel Gazette" was the forerunner of a later "Gazette" published by D. M. Wickham, copies of which are still in existence.

The oldest copy of a Rush County newspaper in existence today is a copy of "The Indianian," Vol. 1, No. 48, under the editorship of William J. Brown. The front page masthead, or flag, and partial contents are reproduced herewith. The entire paper is in the archives of the Rushville Museum. There is no record of the fate of this paper and this copy is the only evidence of its existence.

Names of other early papers include the "American," "Herald," "Hoosier and Democratic Archive," "Jacksonian," "Daily Star," "Independent," "Whig," and the "True Republican."

Early publishers led a hard life and it is questionable how they survived. Offers to accept sugar or produce in exchange for subscriptions were common. Also the threat to "not cancel any subscription until all arrearages are paid" makes one wonder about their mailing lists. The list of pioneer publishers and editors emphasizes the fact that newspapers changed ownership and management many times.

Most of the first papers were inclined to the Democrat political belief. At least one early Whig paper was later purchased and its political persuasion changed to Democrat. On April 25, 1840, P. A. and O. C. Hackleman established the Rushville "Whig" with the former as the editor. In his first editorial General Hackleman stated that he was espousing the candidacy of William Henry Harrison for President of the United States. This was the famous log cabin campaign of Tippecanoe and Tyler too. He is said to have had the ambition of making a thousand dollars a year from the operation. Whether this was achieved or not is questionable because he traded the paper two years later for a buckwheat farm. General Hackleman remained as editor after the sale. The name of the paper was changed to the "True Republican" in 1846 and is today still being published under the name of the "Rushville Daily Republican."

General Hackleman was born in a log cabin in Franklin County. The building was later removed to Rushville and stands in upper Memorial Park today as a tribute to the only Indiana general who was killed in action in the Civil War. He lost his life at the battle of Corinth, Miss.

Newspapers published in towns other than Rushville include the "Carthage Citizen," the "Milroy Press," and the "Mays Times." The "Citizen" was established in Carthage in 1887 as the "Clarion" and continued until April, 1967, when it was sold and publication suspended. Charles F. Pollitt established the Milroy "Advertiser" in 1882 and later changed the name to the "Times" because the former name smacked too much of commercialism. Under different management in 1887, the name was again changed to the "News" later becoming the "Press" under the management of F. C. Green. Dewey Hagen acquired the ownership and also began printing the Laurel "Review" and the St. Paul "Record" under the name of the Hagen Newspaper Syndicate. Mr. Hagen sold his operation in 1929 and all three of these papers later suspended publication. No information about the Mays "Times" is available.

James E. Naden founded the Rushville "American" November 22, 1894, on $600 he saved while working for other newspapers. His offices were in rooms over what is now the local business office of Public Service Indiana. He moved his office to West First Street and continued to publish a weekly newspaper until his death.

Two newspapers are published in Rush County today. The Rushville Telegram is a weekly publication which is a lineal descendant of the old "Jacksonian." Equipment of the "Jacksonian" was abandoned and sat idle for several years. Under postal laws the second class mailing permit was surrendered, thus breaking the chain of continuous publication. J. N. Culp purchased the presses and the linotype in the early 1920's and began a new paper known as the "Rush County News." A subsequent change in name resulted in the present-day "Rushville Telegram," a newspaper of Democrat political affiliation.

The "Rushville Daily Republican" dates a continuous chain of operation stemming from the "Whig" established by the Hacklemans in 1840. With the demise of the Whig party, the name was changed to "The Republican" and continued as a weekly publication until April 2, 1891, when it was issued twice a week, Tuesdays and Fridays. In March, 1904, the paper was started on a daily career with Jacob Feudner as owner and Edward J. Hancock as editor. Mrs. Arthur Cleland, who lives near Milroy, is a daughter of Mr. Hancock.

The "Rushville Daily Republican" is the oldest business in continuous operation in Rush County. A. Hartwell Coons is its publisher and general manager and Robert D. Crawley is editor. Officers of the Republican Company are: A. Hartwell Coons, president, Mrs. Arthur Cleland, vice-president; Robert D. Crawley, secretary and Mrs. Hartwell Coons, treasurer.

EARLY EDUCATION

James S. Scott

One of the first schools in Rush County was built and taught by Wm. B. Laughlin in the town of Rushville. Dr. Laughlin, a well-educated man for the time, had taught school in Brookville before coming to Rush County to help survey the twelve counties made of the New Purchase of 1818. Dr. Lauglin entered the land where Rushville now stands and built a dam, grist mill and a log cabin in 1821. He had nine daughters and six sons of his own and was desirous of a school, so he built one on the corner of Third and Morgan Streets where the old Presbyterian Church now stands. In 1828 the school was changed to a more academic school in a new building. This had only moderate success and after three years it reverted to a common subscription school which it remained until 1837 when it was organized into a county Seminary.

The early laws of the state provided that fines would be devoted to the maintenance of the county seminary. This was under the charge of Joseph Nichols and John W. Barbour. It was said that Nichols taught and Barbour threshed. Perhaps the strongest advocate of advanced education to succeed Dr. Laughlin was Rev. D. M. Stewart, who came to Rushville in 1836. He was probably the most educated man in the early history of the county and his position as pastor of the Presbyterian Church gave him an influence not equaled by any other. In 1849 Rushville High School began and was supported entirely by private funds. It was held in the basement of Presbyterian Church. The Warner sisters were hired, but after two years they were married and the Langdon sisters took over. It seemed impossible to maintain these schools with marriageable females. This school was discontinued in 1855. Each township had some early schools and it is impossible to be sure which was first. Many were taught in private cabins. The first thirty years were too busy in the county, clearing, ditching and building, to spend much time at school. The first generation born in Rush County probably had far less education than their fathers had had in the older settlements of Virginia.

Some early county schools and teachers:

Anderson—John W. Thompkins 1823—½ mile south of Milroy on the John Jackman farm. Other early teachers were Nathan Thompkins, James M. Innis, Patterson, McConnell, John Bell and Knowles Shaw, the great evangelist who later wrote "Bringing in the Sheaves" and many other church songs.

Richland—Alexander Fisher—taught in a round log school house at the cross roads a mile south of Richland in 1829-30. The Richland Academy was erected in 1855-56 by a group of prominent local stock holders. The first principal was Rev. A. Montgomery. Under Prof. John McKee it reached its highest point of prosperity. They prepared students for the sophomore and junior year of college. During the Civil War Prof. McKee raised a company, many of his students went to war with him. This school was sold to the township in 1884. Many students of this academy went on to college and became prominent in their field.

Orange Township—Benjamin Owens taught a school in 1825 between Moscow and the Owens Mill. Other early teachers were John Allison, Alvin Cass, James McDuffey, Lewis Richey, Milton Wagner.

Walker Township—Rueben Hefflin taught an early school in a cabin near the Hurst Cemetery about 1825. These early schools were subscription and parents agreed to pay $1.50 per pupil for a three month term. The teacher boarded around with pupils.

Noble Township—This area was blessed with at least two exceptionally good early teachers. Benjamin F. Reeves and Elijah Hackleman. Isaac Phipps taught a school for the squatters on Congress land in 1820-1821. Flat Rock Seminary was established in 1856—was in a room over the common school.

Union Township—Cornelius Howard taught near Ben Davis Creek in 1822-23. John Lewark, Clark Kitchen and James Mathews were a few of the early teachers.

Jackson Township—E. C. Powell was probably the teacher in a school on the west bank of Mud Creek near the grave yard. Other early teachers were Alex Brown, Dr. Robert Moffett, John Griffith, Miss Barwick, and W. C. Mauzy. The first school hack was used to haul pupils from Henderson to the David School. Trustee Daniel Kiplinger hired John Wilkinson in 1899 to haul fifteen students.

Posey Township—This was one of the later townships formed by splitting Ripley, which at first was composed of what is now Posey and Walker. Elder Gabriel McDuffy, a well known preacher, taught a school in 1833.

An early horse-drawn school hack used in Walker Township

Ripley Township—This was settled mostly by Friends from North Carolina who were opposed to slavery and this is probably the prime cause of the migration. The first school was taught in the Walnut Ridge log meeting house in 1826 by Joshua Pool. Nathan Hill finished the term in 1827. Other early teachers were Isaac White, Robert Harrison, Elisha Hobbs, Nathan Warrington, Thomas Moore and Anna Macy.

Center Township—Mr. Esham probably taught the first school in 1830. Pryar Rigdon, Samuel McBride, John Kirkpatrick and Jonah Price, James Young and many others were among the early teachers of Center Township.

Washington Township—Each township had from eight to ten school houses. Some years not all were used. Big families were common in those days and was not unusual for a family to send five or six students to school. Joseph Bowes says that Martin Vickery sent fifteen pupils to school to him. John Williamson, an Irishman, taught in Washington as early as 1830.

In 1876 William S. Hall, as trustee, consolidated the schools of the township in such a manner that five buildings served where nine had been used. This put Washington Township in the educational lead of Rush County. They could have more months of school on a given tax rate than any township in the county. This consolidation to five buildings was soon cut down to one large graded building thus Washington Township is claimed to be the first consolidated township school in the United States. This was caused by the advanced thinking of William S. Hall.

HIRAM HADLEY'S TIME TABLE AT SCHOOL

ORDER!!!

School call at 8 O'clock		
Scripture Reading—15 min.	8:15	Amanda's Classes
Two Algebra classes—45 min.	9:00	
Talking Recess		
Arithmetic No. 4—30 min.	9:30	First, Second and Third Readers
Fourth Reader No. 1—30 min.	10:00	
Recess—15 min.	10:15	
Latin Reader—30 min.	10:45	Primary Geog.
Fourth Reader No. 2—30 min.	11:15	Grammar No. 1
Chemistry—30 min.	11:45	
Writing	12:00	
But with a very rare exception I keep enough ahead of time to write a full half hour.		
Noon time—75 min.	1:15	
Arithmetic No. 2—30 min.	1:45	First, Second and Third Readers
Physiology and Geography—45 min. (Geometry, surveying & arithmetic 3rd)	2:30	
(All small classes)—30 min.	3:00	
Recess—15 min.	3:15	
After recess by pushing, I hear Arithmetic No. 1,		
Ment. Arith., Grammar		Nat. Philosophy
2nd, and Spelling		Spelling McGuffey
Close at	4:45	

Hiram Hadley was a well-educated and beloved teacher who taught in the Carthage Friends School in the years 1854, 1855, and 1856. He introduced Stoddard's Mental Arithmetic, which was enthusiastically received; at the close of one term the teachers and pupils, twenty in all, remained an extra week and worked from eight in the morning to five in the afternoon and solved all problems provided.

THE HICKORY BARK TORCH

Thomas T. Newby

In early times when lanterns were not known, and later when they were, the substitution of a Hickory Bark torch was common, (there were no pines or other evergreens natural here to produce knots or resinous woods). While not the lantern's equal for light, it was always ready and practical—also easy to start a fire for any purpose.

The loose, hanging bark of the old shell (shag) bark hickory tree, split, not finely, was used; a big handful for a torch two or three feet long. Several pieces together would hold fire indefinitely, and make a little light if needed.

Trees were often entirely stripped of the outside bark twelve or fifteen feet up from the ground where growing conveniently.

'Possum and 'coon hunters and "night fishers" were delighted to have a hickory bark torch, and any one going through a thick forest after night rarely went without one, as the light was a protection from wolves, panthers, bears, wild cats (catamounts), etc., for neighborly "bed time" visiting which was very common. The torch was always available for immediate use.

These torches were made and used by night-hunters and night fishers after lanterns came in use for the convenience of quickly starting a fire.

CHURCH HISTORY

Wally Gardner

St. Paul United Methodist Church

First Presbyterian Church

Out of the swamps and forests our forefathers carved out this wonderful County of ours by the strength and guidance of God. With varied backgrounds in the East and South they came with a spirit of brotherly-kindness and labored together with a common goal. They brought their Bibles and practiced the tradition of their forefathers in religious matters. No wonder, while the County was in its infancy, men were coming from many States to study God's Word here. First the circuit rider came by horseback, preaching where two or three were gathered together in groves and in homes, then log cabins were built to hold services in. God only knows the sacrifices made by these circuit riders to spread the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ or the number of their scalps recorded on the scalp trees (such as a scalp tree on Dr. John Arnold's farm with over thirty scalps recorded on it).

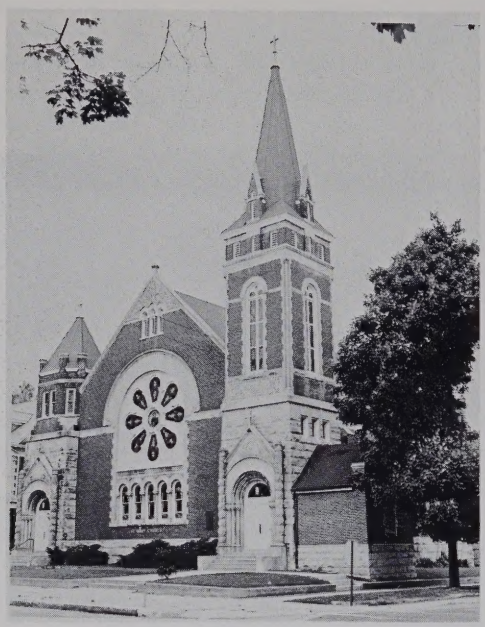
There is no recorded historical proof of who was first to spread the gospel in Rush County. It would be a toss-up among the Baptists and Methodists. The Friends, Presbyterians and Christians (Church of Christ) were also among the first soon to follow. That which is paramount is not who was first but what was first, that being the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Worship Services and Bible study were conducted in many school houses as well as homes, and many churches were the only places where secular instruction was taught as most of the early preachers were teachers also.

The manner in which the early settlers went from place to place establishing new churches is reminiscent of the Apostle Paul as he went from country to country establishing churches in the first century. We will be eternally indebted to them for their zeal to preach and teach the gospel. Rush County has a great heritage in this respect.

Church discipline was practiced in the early churches of Rush County and the unfaithful were dismissed from the local churches but were reinstated when they repented. Many asked to be dismissed, themselves, when they had sinned. This practice seemed to have ceased in Rush County with the last century, rarely is it practiced today.

In the history of the churches in Rush County we see the planting of new congregations which in turn blossomed out into other new congregations. We see the beginning of a benevolent work and it growing beyond the imagination of those who started the work. We see the call of preaching the gospel and the great response in the early days of the church in Rush County. Those who placed themselves in the hands of God have seen wondrous things wrought in the kingdom of God. Rush County was one of the first and foremost in the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the State of Indiana.

Some of the earliest congregations to spring forth were: The Little Flat Rock Baptist Church in Noble Township, Hopewell in Richland Township, Bethesda and Antioch in Anderson Township, the Methodist and



St. Mary's Catholic Church

Wesley United Methodist Church

Presbyterian in Rushville and the Friends at Walnut Ridge. Many churches owe their heritage to the Little Flat Rock Baptist Church which was later the Little Flat Rock Church of Christ. The First Presbyterian Church in Rushville also fathered another congregation in the northeastern part of Rush County. The Baptist and Methodist had strong convictions concerning their relative traditions which resulted in heated discussions and the saturation of the County by both denominations, the Methodists having the slight edge in number of congregations. Strong convictions also resulted in some congregations separating over matters of salvation and instrumental music.

Some of the earliest stalwarts of the church were: Elder John P. Thompson of the Little Flat Rock Baptist Church and later the Church of Christ; Elias B. Stone, Fayetteville (Orange); Ephraim Samuel Frazee of Fayetteville; Jacob Daubenspeck, Christian Church; John O. Kane of the Christian Church; D. M. Stewart, Presbyterian; James Havens, Methodist; Joseph Henley and Robert Hill, Friends. In the latter half of the nineteenth century such men as Jacob B. Blount and Knowles Shaw of the Christian Churches, the latter being the author of, "Bringing In The Sheaves" and many others; and Nathan C. McDill of the Presbyterians. In the twentieth century there were such men as Walter Crawley of the Christian Church; Guy Hamilton of the United Presbyterian Church; and Dr. J. T. Scull of the Methodist Church. Today's prominent sons of Rush County; Rod Cameron, William Norris, and Philip Gardner of the Christian Church; George Newbold and William Cleary of the Catholic Church; Eddie Springman of the Methodist Church; and Orris Orr of the Baptist Church.

In 1925 the Rush County Council of Young People was organized which was interdenominational. The attendance at the Annual County Meeting was excellent. Some of the County counselors were: Mr. and Mrs. Guy Hamilton and Mildred Stewart. The organization ceased to function in the early forties. Many of those Young People are still active in the life of the church today.

In about 1932 the Weekley's Christian Service Camp was organized as an interdenominational endeavor. The camp funtioned as such for some time, then changed sponsorship from time to time. In 1944 the Camp was moved to what is now the Mahoning Valley Christian Service Camp, sponsored by the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ. There are five weeks of Camp each year which are attended by hundreds of young people. Many other groups use the Camp grounds throughout the year.

In 1948 the minister of the Milroy Christian Church suggested that the church support the Grundy Mountain Mission in Grundy, Virginia. The project spread county-wide, then area-wide in scope, people of all denominations supporting it. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been taken in clothing, toys, food, appliances, equipment, grain, livestock supplement, new and used machinery, a grain bin and a host of other articles. It requires over twenty trucks to transport the donations to the Mission each year.

Many United Methodist Churches in the area started in 1967 taking gifts to the needy people in the Cumberland, Kentucky, area. It took five trucks to transport the gifts in 1971. Between 25 and 30 adults and young people accompanied the caravan.

Little Flat Rock Christian Church

Big Flat Rock Christian Church

A Christian Emphasis Week sponsored by the Rush County Ministerial Group was started in the mid-fifties. Through the years it has been well attended. Each year an outstanding speaker has been secured to challenge the audience by dynamic and forceful preaching of the gospel.

How thrilling it is to see the interest and involvement of the young people in the churches today. There has been an upswing of young people entering Bible Colleges, preparing for the ministry and the mission field. Not since the early years of the establishment of the church in Rush County have there been so many people entering some phase of the ministry of the church. In recent years young people from various parts of the County are participating in singing groups, in benevolence, in witnessing in the local area as well as in distant places. Colleges report that the 1971 Freshman Classes are the most serious-minded to enter college in many years. A spirit of revival is sweeping Campuses all over the Nation.

In 1946 there was a nationwide merger of the Evangelical and United Brethren Churches. Then again in 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Episcopal Churches merged to be known as the United Methodists.

Recently many changes have been made in practice and in the Worship Services of the Catholic Church. The Lord's Supper, called the Mass, is given in the language of the country where the Worship Service is held. Most of the changes in the Mass have been made with a view towards restoring them to very ancient forms of worship dating back to the sixth century. A new emphasis has been placed on reading the Scriptures in Worship. Lay leaders are being used much more extensively during the Worship Services with a greater audience participation.

EXISTING CHURCHES

There are 22 Christian Churches and Churches of Christ, namely: Rushville Church of Christ; Main Street Christian Church, Rushville; East Street Christian Church, Carthage; Raleigh Christian Church; Orange Christian Church; Plum Creek Christian Church; Fairview Christian Church; Arlington Christian Church; Little Blue River Church of Christ; Center Christian Church; Moscow Christian Church; Glenwood Church of Christ; Ben Davis Christian Church; Manilla Christian Church; Big Flat Rock Christian Church; Homer Christian Church; Hannegan Christian Church; Milroy Christian Church; Sexton Christian Church; Andersonville Christian Church; Little Flat Rock Christian Church; and the Charlottesville Christian Church.

There are 12 Methodist Churches, namely: St. Paul United Methodist Church, Rushville; The Wesleyan Church, Rushville; Faith United Methodist, Rushville; Wesley United Methodist Church, Rushville; The Wesleyan Church, Carthage; Fletcher Methodist Church, Carthage; Orange Methodist Church; New Salem United Methodist Church; Glenwood United Methodist Church; Blue River Wesleyan Church; Manilla Methodist Church; Milroy United Methodist Church; and Charlottesville United Methodist.

Walnut Ridge Friends Church

Hopewell Church (Richland Township)

There are seven Baptist Churches, namely: Falmouth Southern Baptist Church; Mid-Way Baptist Church, Carthage; First Southern Baptist Church, Baptist Temple, Berean Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, and the Second Baptist Church, in Rushville.

The two Presbyterian Churches are: First Presbyterian Church in Rushville and the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. The two United Presbyterian Churches are: Milroy United Presbyterian Church and the Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Rushville.

There are four Friends Congregations, namely: Carthage Friends, Walnut Ridge Friends, Charlottesville Friends, and the Little Blue River Friends.

There are three Nazarene Churches: one each in Rushville, Andersonville, and Carthage.

The 11 remaining Congregations are: First Church of God, Rushville; St. Mary Catholic Church, Rushville; St. Matthais Episcopal Church, Rushville; First Assembly of God, Rushville; The Salvation Army Citadel, Rushville; First Pentecostal Church, Rushville; Unitarian Fellowship, Rushville; Blue Ridge Christian Union Church; Homer Federated Church; Andersonville Pentecostal Church; and the Tri-County Assembly of God.

A PARTIAL LIST OF FORMER CHURCHES

Methodist Episcopal Churches: Richland, Pinhook Friendship, Mt. Olivet, Bethesda, Vienna, Sharon, Arlington, Goddard (Pleasant Ridge), Mt. Garrison (Mt. Gherizim), Franklin, Raleigh, Falmouth, Ebenezer (Gowdy), Center, Walker's, Moscow, Blue Ridge, Waller's Chapel, Cowagers, African Methodist Episcopal (Colored), and one two miles south of Richland.

Baptist Churches: Little Flat Rock, Ben Davis Creek, Big Flat Rock, Pleasant Run, Little Salt Creek, East Fork Flat Rock, Little Blue River, Old Hickory, West Union, Zion, Burlington, Salem, Mt. Pleasant, Homer, and three colored Churches in Ripley Township.

Christian Churches: Hurricane (New Light), Concord, Pisgah, Addison's Chapel, Carthage (Colored), and the Black School House Church.

United Presbyterian: Shiloh (later Mays), Richland, and Glenwood. Presbyterian: Homer, Pleasant Grove, and West Liberty.

Evangelical United Brethren: Zion, Henderson, and possibly Hopewell (Originally Christian).

Others: Riverside Friends, Holiness and Church of God in Williamstown, Homer Adventist, German Lutheran, and Old St. John.

ACADEMIES

There were several Academies in Rush County. A partial list follows: the Richland Academy, under Presbyterian leadership; Little Flat Rock Academy and Little Flat Rock Seminary, under Church of Christ leadership; Farmington Academy, later Fairview Academy, moved to Indianapolis to become Northwest Christian University, now Butler University, under Christian Church leadership; Friends Academy at Carthage; Rushville Female Institute, under Presbyterian leadership; Rushville Female Academy under Christian Church leadership; there were others without any church affiliation.

I regret there was not enough space in this Sesquicentennial Booklet to give a brief history of each of the Churches in Rush County. For this reason I have had to give a blanket history rather than selecting a few particular churches.

THE BEECH CHURCH

Lawrence B. Carter

Mt. Pleasant Beech Church is preserved as the site where the Indiana AME was formed in 1840.

Early in the history of Rush County there was a unique settlement in part of the northwest portion of Ripley Township. It was a community composed of free Negroes and colored people of mixed blood from slave states.

Some of the colored people came with their friends who were members of the Society of Friends called Quakers, who were the earliest settlers in the area. Others came on their own in wagon trains, ox-carts, on horseback or on foot.

All of them, Quakers and Negroes alike, moved from the southern states for the same general reasons, mainly to get away from the dreaded institution of slavery.

The place became known as the Beech. The name first applied to a school house that stood in a grove of beech trees and was called the Beech School. The church, about a mile east of the school, was at a place called Mount Pleasant, but later became known as the Beech Church, or as Mount Pleasant Beech Church.

The first churches in the Beech were Baptist. There were two or three of them which existed until 1831.

In 1832 the people got together and decided to build a church at the place they called Mount Pleasant. Then on June 16, 1832, by a resolution adopted by the vote of the church members they chose the A.M.E. (African Methodist Episcopal) church as their religious denomination.

It has been said that General Tuttle planned it and members of the Roberts, McDuffy, Watkins and other families were instrumental in the organization.

Leaders of the A.M.E. Church at the time were Bishop Morris Brown and the Rev. William Paul Quinn. After they had established the A.M.E. Church a log meeting house was built in 1838. Soon it was replaced by a frame building and was called the Mount Pleasant African Methodist Church. In some histories of the A.M.E. Church the place is called Blue River.

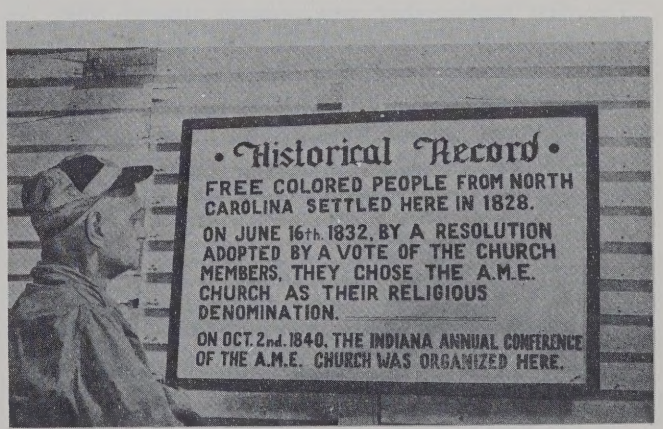
In 1840, on October 2, Bishop Morris Brown organized the Indiana A.M.E. Conference there and put William Paul Quinn in charge of all the circuits of the Indiana Conference.

Several local men served as preachers in the early days and some preached at the Beech church. Among them were General Tuttle, James McDuffey, John Brooks, Benjamin Roberts, Peter Davis, Quinn Tuttle and William Stewart. General Tuttle was added formally to the ministry in 1845 when the Conference met in Indianapolis.

The Church was strong and prosperous during the days of the Underground Railroad and the Civil War. The Rev. Nathan Mitcham was pastor during part of the 1860's and the Rev. Morris Lewis was pastor about 1872.

A group of local singers gained considerable recognition and became known as the "Old Home Quartet of 1884." They were Alvin Garner, Ula Watkins, Charles Watkins, and Levi Weaver. They sang again in 1922 and in 1923. The last time they sang was in 1924. It was estimated that at least one thousand people attended the meeting on August 31 of that year.

Mrs. M. E. B. McCullough, who was for many years pastor of the A.M.E. churches at Carthage and the Beech, announced a basket meeting for the Beech for Sunday, August 27, 1911. The girl evangelist, Miss Mary G. Evans, was to be there. The event was very successful. Since 1914 annual Homecomings have been held at the old church. Each year many people from several states of the Union return to the Beech Church to enjoy a Homecoming on the last Sunday in August.


• Historical Record •
FREE COLORED PEOPLE FROM NORTH CAROLINA SETTLED HERE IN 1828.
ON JUNE 16th. 1832, BY A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF THE CHURCH MEMBERS, THEY CHOSE THE A.M.E. CHURCH AS THEIR RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION.
ON OCT. 2nd. 1840, THE INDIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE A.M.E. CHURCH WAS ORGANIZED HERE.

Author Lawrence Carter reads sign erected at the church giving its historical significance

THE HISTORY OF THE NEGRO IN RUSH COUNTY

Allen D. Fletcher

The migration of the Negro into Rushville was accomplished in two ways, by the underground Railroad, and by migration of free citizens from Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

The underground Railroad brought runaway slaves into the county and town of Rushville as early as 1830. Prior to the Civil War the Negro settled in Rushville, in the northeast part of the town, which is considered the most beautiful section of the town.

Two of the earliest families to settle in Rushville were the Somervilles, and the Herdspaths. Probably the Somerville family was the first family here, they were probably here by the early 1840's. The Herdspath's probably settled in the late 1840's or early 1850's.

Migration and Establishing Homes

From the end of the Civil War, migration picked up. Beginning in 1865, some of the families that settled here were: Reubin Hicks, Civil War Veteran; George Anderson; Peter Johnson; Frank Lacy; the Daniels family; the Bradfords; Ed Everetts, Copelands; L. W. Straws; the first Methodist Minister; Gabriel Williams; and Richard Powell, Corporal in the regular U. S. Army, Civil War.

These were a proud group of people and ambitious enough to want their own homes. So, through the help of Lawyer George C. Clark, a North Carolina Quaker who owned property in the northeast part of the town, they were able to purchase the ground and to build their own homes.

Mr. Clark also donated the ground for what is now Wesley Methodist Church, on which the Cuhrch now stands. This ground was donated solely for the purpose of said church, in 1877. The First Pastor of this church was Rev. L. W. Straws, who served until 1878 when he retired.

Business and Industrial Life

The Negro started rather early in business in Rushville.

The first barber shop was opened around 1890, by Professor Brown, which was his real name. In 1894, Delaney Bradford opened a restaurant. Ed Everetts opened a barber shop around 1900, and then went into partnership with Herman Copeland, John Roberts and Allen Daniels, calling it the Big 4 Barber Shop. This shop was later run by Luther Ramey until the late 1950's.

In August, 1915, Nathan Fletcher opened a shoe repair shop. This shop, now known as Fletcher Shoe Service, has been operating for 56 years, currently the second oldest business place in Rushville.

In 1921 Roy Evans opened a Beauty Shop with much success until 1961.

For the most part the industrial life has been farming, domestic and general labor.

Robert Miller, Henry Miller and the Hines were the leading farmers. Essex Barber, George Mitchell and Orville Cruse, who worked with horses, came to Rushville and stayed.

The Second Baptist Church was organized in 1884, with Wm. Easly one of the Trustees in 1891, and reorganized in 1907. The Rev. Schumaker was pastor when the Church was reorganized.

Oustanding Citizens

There have been several outstanding citizens that have come from this community, of whom we are proud.

Dr. John Wilson Ramey, a graduate of the Rushville Schools and of Meharry College of Medicine, practiced medicine in Kokomo, Indiana for 60 years. He recently died and is buried in East Hill.

Francis Eggleston, a graduate of Indiana University, was dean of women at Durham College, in North Carolina, until her retirement in 1968.

Walter D. Bean has been in the school system in Indianapolis for thirty years, and is on the Staff of the Indianapolis Public Schools.

Rev. Peter T. Fletcher has been in the Methodist Conference for twenty years.

Donald D. Fletcher was First Negro Supervisor in the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C.

George Adams, Jr., has been a Federal Probation Officer in Detroit, Michigan.

Robert Bradley is on the Police Force in Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. William Bradley is in the physical Education Department at Western College in Macomb, Illinois. He was an outstanding athlete at I. U.

Miss Joanne Bradley is a master teacher at Matthew Hensen School in Chicago.

Richard Bradley is Principal at Oakland School in Chicago.

Joella Goins Hawkins has taught in Rushville schools and Marion, Indiana, public schools.

Larry Goins has taught in public schools in Columbus and Marion, Indiana.

David Goins, is a Boys Club Director in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The late Herschell Bundrant graduated in medicine at Indiana University and practiced for many years in Detroit.

Leona Fletcher Jasper and Thelma Fletcher Jones are at the Army Finance Center in Indianapolis; Nathan P. Fletcher, Jr., is in the Post Office in Indianapolis.

Orville Bunton is in Social Security Office at Baltimore, Md. His half brother, Myran Wahls, is practicing law in Detroit, Michigan.

John Taylor is a graduate in Dentistry from Meharry University and is teaching in Nashville, Tennessee.

Frank Evans is a graduate of Indiana University School of Medicine and is practicing at Buffalo, New York and Roy Evans Jr., is an undertaker in Chicago.

It can well be said that the percentage of professionally educated from Rushville High School is higher for Negroes than for others.

The Wills family, though not living in Rushville, was very well known and respected in the New Salem Community.

Ripley Township used to have a large community of Negroes. Many were former slaves and some were free men. Carthage was a Quaker settlement and was on the line of the underground railroad as was Rushville and Greensburg to the south. The Quakers brought Negroes with them from North Carolina who were either free men or were freed when they reached Indiana. Lawrence Carter, a retired school teacher now lives in Carthage, and Mrs. Lucille Burnett, who is now engaged in teaching in the public schools and who is a relative of Lawrence Carter, lives in Carthage. As far as is known, these are the only Negroes now living in Ripley Township. Lawrence Carter is sponsor and organizer of the annual meeting held at "The Beeches" west of Carthage. In September of each year descendants of members of the congregation, sometimes to the number of several hundred, come back to their church and have church services and a Sunday afternoon get-together.

Author's note: I would have been at a loss in gathering early information, except that my mother, Mrs. Nettie Johnson Fletcher, who is living, remembered many, many names and happenings that had been told to her.

BITS OF OUR HERITAGE

Mary Beth English

Peter Johnson, prominent early Rushville resident

Johnson Gravel Pit

Mr. Peter Johnson was born in 1845 in Kentucky. He came to Rush County in about 1875. Here he met and married Miss Lucy Daniels in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson had 4 children, Bruce, Henry, Nettie, and Minnie.

Mrs. Johnson's brother, Allen Daniels, ran the Big Four barber shop.

Mr. Peter Johnson owned and ran the Johnson Gravel Pit. It was located out on old highway 3 east. The gravel pit employed both black and white workers. He also owned a farm and raced his horses. The Johnson family was considered one of the more well off black families of early Rush County.

Peter Johnson died in 1919, but he had a grandson named after him who became the first negro from Rush County to become an officer in World War II. He was the son of Henry and Mary Johnson.

Second Baptist Church

On October 3, 1891, Mr. George C. Clark sold to Mr. Henry Morris the west half of lot no. 53, at a price of $100. Mr. Morris then sold the land to the trustees of the Second Baptist Church for $16. The trustees were John L. Ramey and Howard Steward.

The church, located on East Seventh Street, was firmly established by 1907 and the first minister was Rev. Shumake.

A firm and steady family in the early history of the Baptist Church was the Moore family. John and Jenny Moore were part founders of the church.

Wesley Methodist Church

In 1875 the people of the Wesley Methodist Church were meeting in different homes in the community. The minister, Rev. William Straws was on circuit between Rushville, Shelbyville, and New Castle. Rev. Straws on his circuit would sometimes walk from town to town.

In 1877, Mr. George C. Clark donated land to the people of the church for the purpose of building a church. The first minister was the same Rev. Straws, and the trustees were Mr. Calvin Herdspath, Mr. Frank Lacy, and Mr. Gabriel Williams.

The church remained under the same name until 1969 when it changed to Wesley United Methodist Church.

Pupils and teacher at Washington School in 1912

Cora Ramey, early teacher at the school

Washington School

The old Washington School is located on the point of East Seventh Street and Fort Wayne Road. When it was built Seventh Street was known as Magnolia Street. The School dates back as far as the early 1880's, with a number of different teachers over the years.

Teachers through the years were Professor Williams, Mr. Randall Hill, Mrs. Cora Smith Ramey, Mrs. Mary Wills Adams, Professor J. E. Bean and Miss Fanny Ramey.

Miss Fanny Ramey was the teacher when the school burned in 1924, due to a furnace disorder. The children, ranging from grade one to grade six, were then taken to the Graham High School to attend classes until the repairs were made at the school. When the repairs were completed, the children returned to the school.

Over the years the number of black children in the community decreased and the school was forced to close because of a lack of pupils. Now it is used as a playground and recreation center for the neighborhood children. It is owned by the Masonic Lodge, number 42.

Author's note: My references are Mrs. Jack Broadnax, Mrs. Nettie Fletcher, Mrs. Dorothy Bradley, Mr. Albert Moore, Mrs. Mary Taylor and the Rush County Recorders's Office.

UNDERGROUND RAILWAY

Sarah Newby

In the immigration of Friends from the south to Ripley Township, a number of colored families came with them, or soon followed them.

These families were links in the chain of activities that Friends and others assumed on the so-called Under Ground Railroad en route to Canada, where the slaves had government protection, and could not be returned to their masters as could be done in the United States after passage of the "Fugitive Slave Law" of 1850. According to this law, any person who in any way aided a runaway slave was liable to a fine of $100, of which $50 went to the informant.

Carthage at a very early period became a very active station. There were several men who sympathized with the South, and who were ever watching and ready to inform the slave hunters against any who aided a runaway, so that any assistance had to be managed with care and secrecy.

John Frazer was the "station agent," and would notify the "conductors" when their services were needed; among them Henry Henley, William Hill, Elisha B. White and Jim Hunt (colored) and Bob Patterson (colored) were especially active in the work. Sometimes at much risk, usually at night, the slaves,

often dressed in disguise, were conveyed on horseback, in two-horse wagons of hay and straw or closed carriages to Tidiman Jessups' who lived above Knightstown, from there to Eli Stafford's, then on to Fairmount. At times they were taken to Spiceland, thence to the home of Levi Coffin at Newport, now Fountain City, Indiana. Thus several hundred slaves were assisted to the Canadian border.

Fleeing slaves, mostly from Kentucky and Tennessee, were brought from the Rushville station managed by "agent" Burns (colored), and from Shelbyville after night and concealed during the day in the hilly woodland belonging to Abraham Small and Henry Newby. Abraham Small's family generally knew of their arrival, and they and others of the neighborhood provided them with food. If the weather was bad or if some of the runaways were ill they were provided with shelter, often in a building of Henry Henley's and in the home of Elisha White. Thomas T. Newby relates that hidden in the "sugar orchard" one summer day in 1855 were twelve; they consisted of a family, some children and grown slaves who were determined to be free. Some of his sisters talked to them when they took them food. A runaway family by the name of Scott from Spartanburg, S. C., stayed two or three years in a vacant log cabin on the Henry Newby farm. Scott made baskets and worked in the neighborhood; in cultivating corn he used a "clodfender" composed of two parts—one a foot-wide wooden paddle with a good handle, the other part an active boy. The boy held the paddle by the "hill" of corn until the plow passed it, then quick as a flash boy and paddle were at the next corn hill and so on until the field was plowed.

One Sunday in the day time Jim Hunt was seen north of Knightstown with two colored men in his buggy, taking them to the next station. He was more venturesome than some of the other "conductors."

Elisha B. White was a fearless "conductor," too, who also sheltered many a slave in his home. Mrs. Arah Daniels Watkins (92 years old, colored) recalls going to Elisha B. White's home to see newcomers one evening —there were eleven in the party, among them three women and a baby about a week old. It had been noised about that anyone who had anything to give, bring it; there was quite a donation to help clothe and feed the new arrivals.

The Walunt Ridge Friends meeting house sheltered many refugees.

When Hiram Hadley taught at Carthage in the 1850's, he stated in a letter, "Every few days a certain man would accost me, 'Well, Hiram, we want fifty cents from thee today.' He offered no explanation but I knew very well some colored brother was in hiding in the 'big woods.'"

O. S. Hill related, "When a boy about sixteen years old in the 1850's was directed by his father to have three horses saddled about dark, and take them to a certain place near where the Strawboard now stands and he would find three black men and one white man waiting for the horses, the white man having his own horse, the order was executed with pleasure—the three black men mounted the horses, and the boy returned home feeling that he had assisted three men on their way to Canada and Liberty."

The Underground Railroad went into past history when Abraham Lincoln issued his Proclamation. The last load of slaves went out of Carthage in 1864 conveyed in a bobsled in December, singing and rejoicing on the way to Liberty—this occured in the day time.

THE WORLD'S OR MANILLA FAIR

Bert Rigsbee

The World's or Manilla Fair was organized in the late 1880's and was closed in the early 1890's. The grounds were located on the north bank of Little Blue River on the Rush-Shelby County line on the Rush County side half a mile south of the Little Blue River Quaker Church and two miles north of Manilla.

The largest buildig located on the grounds of the Fair is now located two miles north of Manilla on the Walker-Posey Township line. This building housed all the farm products on exhibit from the surrounding areas.

The sheds which housed the race horses were moved to the grounds near the Quaker Church to be used for the protection of the horses used for transportation to church services.

The race track, which was located on the north side of the fair grounds, was used both for horse races and for bicycle races on the big front wheel bikes.

The Punch and Judy Show was the main attraction for both young and old. The man who pulled taffy from a hook fastened to a tree was a treat, as was the candy he pulled.

Isaac G. Macy was the secretary of the fair. Alva H. Swain was one of the policemen. The gun he carried is now owned by me, as I am his nephew.

I also have two tickets from the year 1889, granting me admission of one horse, for ten cents.

RUSH COUNTY HORSE HISTORY

James S. Scott

The early Rush County fairs indicated an interest in fast horses, but a show ring was about all the fair had. In 1862 they built a one-third of a mile race course for the local boys to race their horses.

July 22, 1863, the word came to Rushville that General Morgan with 4000 Confederate cavalry men and five field pieces had crossed the Ohio River at Mauckport on two steam boats. Morgan burned the boats and headed north. Many Hoosiers thought he was headed for Indianapolis to release the prisoners and maybe capture the capitol and Governor Morton.

Most Rush County men who were able and willing to fight were already in the Army and engaged in the war. Old men and young boys poured into Rushville to protect the county from Morgan. Milroy had a militia unit of 50 men and they went South to meet the invaders.

Morgan and his men were mounted on the best horses they could steal in Kentucky. They took Corydon easily and turned east through North Vernon and Versailles. They traded horses everytime theirs got tired or they saw a better one than they had. Many changed horses every five or ten miles all the way across the state.

The horses were very mixed up in Indiana after this. Many people got a better horse from Morgan than he took away. The army collected all of these horses they could find and took them to Louisville, Kentucky. Anyone could claim his horse if he could identify him. Many were claimed and taken home by the owners. Owners from Kentucky claimed two hundred and thirty-five horses. Two hundred and five were held by the army as they were branded army horses which Morgan's men had gotten after battles. The Government then held a great horse sale and sold one thousand six hundred and thirty-three of these animals.

Shortly after this a horse showed up at James Wilson's. It has never been ascertained exactly where he came from. It was commonly thought this horse was one of Morgan's horses that had been moved north and failed to be collected by the army for the sale. He was called Old Sam. James Wilson, a race horse man, trained him and tried him on the track. He failed to be very outstanding and became lame. Wilson brought him back to the home farm and turned him out with the mules. Wilson kept good stud horses and many neighbors and race horse people brought mares to Wilson for breeding. Sometimes they would breed carriage mares to Old Sam. After a while it was found Old Sam's colts were blessed with speed. Speed was the thing most people wanted in a buggy horse and many did some racing on the road or at the fair with friends and neighbors. Old Sam was more in demand than any stud in the county. Wilson brought him in and kept him in a fine stable and the fees began to increase in amounts and the number of fees greatly increased. To drive a Sam colt was about like driving a Cadillac convertible today. Every young man longed to have a Sam colt. Many were used as prizes at drawings or were raffled off for various causes. It didn't seem to matter much who the dam was as long as it was sired by Old Sam.

Horse racing was very popular in Rush County by 1876 so the fair board built a new regulation one-half mile track, east of town back of the present conservation building. Many horses were housed and trained at this new track. The county had a rule against Sunday racing. The editor of the newspaper of that year reported that from a distance the Sabbath day exercising of horses looked very much like racing.

Times were hard in 1876 and James Wilson held a horse and cattle sale. One horse, "Highland Mary," with a record of 2:23 sold for $1300. This was considered too cheap. Money was tight, but forty head of horses and sixty cattle sold for $10,000.

In 1879 Wilson's stable was set afire by some arsonist. The racing of horses was hard business and people would do most anything to win. It was thought someone burned the stable to get Old Sam, who by this time had papers which named him "Blue Bull". Old Sam was in another stable and was in no danger from the fire. Wilson lost eleven race horses: seven new buggies, three sulkies, five hundred sets of harness, four hundred horse blankets, one sleigh and much grain and hay. It was a loss estimated at $20,000. There was no insurance to cover this loss.

July 9, 1880 was a sad day in Rush County. Old Sam died of a cancer. He was supposed to be 31 years old. He had sired 16 colts for Wilson that had been sold for $91,400. Many horsemen over the county had colts sired by him and the value increased on each of them. Sam had not been an outstanding race horse. The best record he made before becoming lame was 2:33, but he had the ability to breed fast colts. Wilson set a tomb stone at his grave at the head of the track on the Wilson farm in Noble Township. This farm is now owned by Donald Marshall.

Wilson held a horse sale September 21-22, 1880. They sold one hundred and twenty-five head of good blooded stock, many of Old Sam's stock. Three horses with records were sold; Will Cody 2:19—Chance 2:20—Richard 2:21. The race horse craze was strong in Rush County by 1880. Almost every farmer had a few mares on the farm to raise a few colts each year. Buyers came looking for fast stock and Rush County took in many dollars during this period.

In 1886 many Rush County race horses were traveling the circuits and winning their share. Quite often

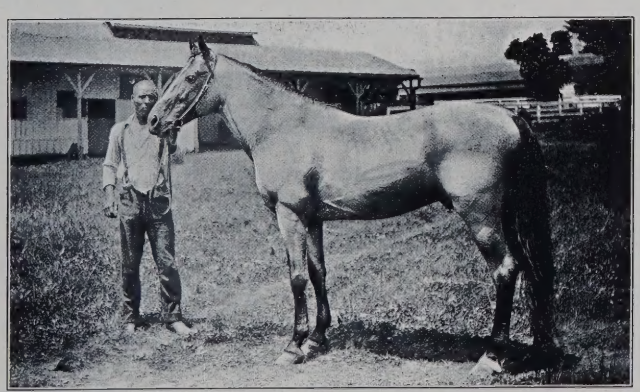
the horse owner or one or more of his sons were out on the road racing. The county paper carried three columns of race news about the local horses and drivers.

1888 showed Rush had over one hundred horse breeders with over 4000 mares with 57 known Blue Bull mares. This was a touchy business as many colts were sold as Sam's colts whether they were or not. Some of the common names seen often in the paper dealing with race horses were:

Oliver Posey & Sons	Judge Cullen
Jack Gowdy	Dora Abercrombie
Wilson Brothers	Campbell Brothers
Amos Brothers	Amos Winship
Beavers	Judge Poston
Johnsons	George Hawkins
Beabouts	T. M. Ross
Frank Norris	John H. Scott

Johnson Brothers were probably the biggest dealers in Rush County horses. They regularly shipped one or two or more carloads of horses a week. Most of their horses went to Boston to be used as carriage and buggy horses in that area. These horses brought $200 to $600 each. An exceptionally good one brought $1000.

A new track was built just south of town in the river bottom in 1890. It was a regulation mile track and 60 feet wide. The judges stand was an especially ornate and attractive structure. A foot bridge was built across the river to make it easy to cross from town. Large grand stands for the people and stables were erected to accomodate at least four hundred horses. This track was to race under the rules of the American Trotting Association. This was real big time racing for the county. The track was opened in grand style July 4, 1890. They held a pony race for the boys and had a balloon ascension scheduled but it caught on fire and couldn't get off the ground. The horses that raced that day were valued in excess of $1,000,000. They came from many states and were brought in by train in special cars. Over 5000 people paid admission to see this event. Each race had a purse of 500 to 600 dollars. A man by the name of Nelson had a horse named Nelson that set the track record that day of 2:11 ¼. He was offered $7500 for the horse but refused to sell.



EARLY MORNING SCENE AT RIVERSIDE PARK.

Picture copied from an early brochure, "The Promoter," of about 1899. It shows some of the buildings at Riverside Park.

Rush County breeders sent 100 horses to Chicago to the great horse auction and were well pleased with their sale.

Race tracks were very common by 1890. Three tracks were located on the edges of town, North, South and East. Every township had at least one training track and some had several. There were at least 25 tracks in the county at this time.

The local paper said, "Rush County was in a position to pass Lexington, Kentucky in the horse business." He said careful breeding was the way to get ahead in this matter.

Rushville was enjoying a "boom" because of the horse industry. The hotels and eating saloons were constantly visited by horse buyers, and strangers in town because of the horse business. The Grand Hotel, which stood at the corner of 1st and Main, was quite a headquarters for owners and buyers. Gambling was common and quite large stakes were played for at the card and crap table. It was said the Grand had a game going seven days a week and twenty-four hours a day.

Many side businesses flourished at this time. Saddle and harness makers were busy. Blacksmiths were busy both in town and at the track.

Circleville developed a road cart company which shipped hundreds of carts over the nation. Several buggy factories were located over the county as well as in Rushville.

Two grain drill factories started. Norris brothers in Noble Township and Jim Harcourt made the "Hoosier Drill" in Orange Township. He had a factory just south of the Forsythe Mill on Flatrock that he claimed could turn a log into either a three or five hoed drill. Both companies did much business. Norris's factory was moved to town and was called the Star Drill Co. Harcourt shipped most of his drills from St. Paul. They sold many car loads of drills each year. Harcourt had one other product he manufactured; a churn.

A common sight in those days was to see farmers hauling hay, corn, oats and straw to the race barns and hauling home a load of manure. This not only gave them a good close market for products but helped hold the fertility of the soil with the manure.

At most times there were three or four hundred head of race horses training around Rushville. The owners lived in the hotels and the drivers and trainers usually lived in the many rooming or boarding houses in the town.

Rushville had from six to ten saloons which did a "land office" business on and near race season. No women were served inside, but all had a door on an alley so buckets of beer could be passed out to the thirsty females.

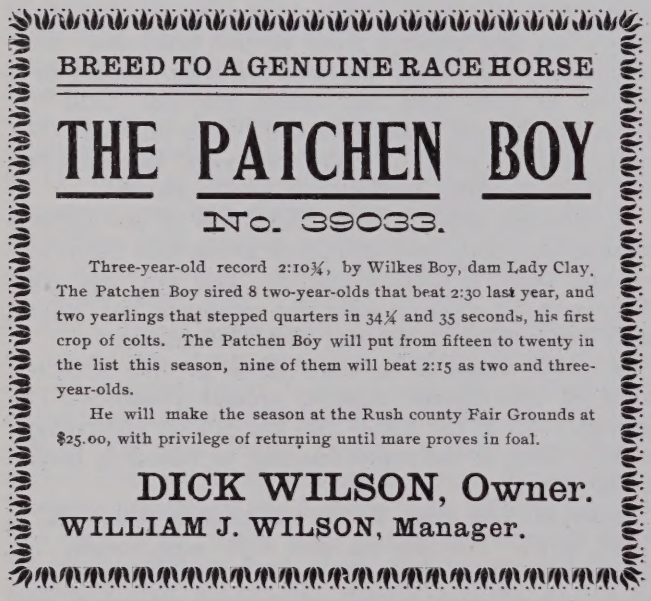
The season of 1893 was very good with over one hundred fast horses entered to race. W. A. Jones held a horse sale October 20, 1893, and sold over one hundred horses, many with records from 2:20 to 2:30. Times were hard in the nation in general but not in Rush County. Fast horses still brought a good price.

1895 was the first blow struck at Rushville. We were left out of the Trotting Circuit. The drivers and owners followed the circuit but no race was held at the Riverside Track. Some blamed Lexington for cutting us out, but the recession over the nation was beginning to be felt here. Campbell Brothers, R. J. Wilson and Cliff Winship sent 20 horses to the Chicago Auction this year, but the price was not as good as usual.

Harry Jones had his horses loaded and going East for the season. He had stopped at Scanlou Saloon and was running to catch the train with three bottles in his hands when he fell. He cut his hands so badly he had to have Dr. Sexton sew them up. The train pulled out with his horses and he had to wire ahead to get a driver to handle them.

Rush was still smarting in 1895 over not having a race in '94 so they joined a circuit of Richmond, Ft. Wayne, Cambridge City and Elkhart. Campbell Bros. and R. J. Wilson sent horses to New York Auction and were not pleased with the price. Johnson Bros. held a sale at the fairground and twenty-nine head of good horses brought only $1,184.50. This was an average of $40.00 each. Six years ago the same horses would have brought ten times that price.

There was much talk about the price of horses and they were not certain whether the Depression caused this drop or maybe the invention of a gasoline engine mounted on a buggy was beginning to be felt.


BREED TO A GENUINE RACE HORSE
THE PATCHEN BOY
No. 39033.
Three-year-old record 2:10¾, by Wilkes Boy, dam Lady Clay. The Patchen Boy sired 8 two-year-olds that beat 2:30 last year, and two yearlings that stepped quarters in 34¼ and 35 seconds, his first crop of colts. The Patchen Boy will put from fifteen to twenty in the list this season, nine of them will beat 2:15 as two and three-year-olds.
He will make the season at the Rush county Fair Grounds at $25.00, with privilege of returning until mare proves in foal.
DICK WILSON, Owner.
WILLIAM J. WILSON, Manager.

Advertisement reproduced from "The Rushville Weekly Jacksonian," Thursday, March 2, 1905

July 4, 1895, Rushville really put on a big drive to promote a race. At Riverside they had Hon. John L. Griffith to make a speech. He did fine but very few came to hear him. They had swings and a merry-go-round for the children. An industrial parade was held at noon. Bicycle races, Pickaninny races, pony races, a ladies novelty race and also horse races. Rushville's baseball team played Connersville and three thousand people paid admission.

The town and the fair board seems to have been having trouble in 1895 so when the fair was scheduled the town held a street fair at the same time and had a circus come to town. Rushville's Baseball Club played some very good teams at this time. Cincinnati Reds came to Riverside track and defeated them 23-4 and also Indianapolis played here and won 28-10.

The Fair Association got into financial troubles and the grounds were sold at a Sheriff sale in 1896 for $3,765.80. Only one bid was made and it was sold back to a reorganized fair board. This financial trouble was a result of the struggle between the town and the fair board.

Many raisers of horses tried to sell at a Cambridge City Auction in 1896, but the average price was from $40 to a record high of $685.

During a race at the Fair Grounds some of the local drivers got a little reckless and one driver fell off of his sulky. The horse ran the wrong way on the track until he found a gate and got out in the crowd. He tried to jump over a table where a family was having lunch. He couldn't quite make it and was captured and returned. No one was injured and the horse ran in the next race.

Jack Gowdy, a Posey Township politician, was Rush County sheriff and auditor or clerk, then became Indiana Republican chairman. Harrison was elected President and appointed Gowdy to be Consul General of Paris. Jack had built a nice home on N. Perkin Street in 1888. This is now the museum.

Gowdy was a good horse lover and sent back to Rush County for William Daggler to purchase and train a team of good horses for him. Daggler bought one blood bay at home and called him "Rush". He searched until he found a mate for him at Brook, Indiana so the team was named Rush and Brook. Daggler trained them and showed them at the fairs around and finally took them to Paris. They cost $900 in the first place. Gowdy made quite a picture in Paris with the blood bays with their long flowing tails, as all horses in Paris had bobbed tails.

Horse values continued to go down. Dick Wilson shipped a car load to the New York Auction in 1899. W. W. Wilson even sent "Mamie Woods," one of the best horses in the county.

In 1900 the price is still lower and the gas engine is getting the blame. One of these locomobiles came to Moscow causing quite a lot of excitement.

J. A. Gosnell, R. L. Beabout and J. S. Blackledge sold several horses that should have brought $1,000. The price that day at Cambridge City Auction was from $60 to $350.

The sad news came out in 1900 that the American Trotting Association had discovered a fraud in the records involving and naming several Rush County men. The Association claims that a race was held September 16, 1899, at Riverside Park on paper only. The claim that several horses made records that day and were later sold on the strength of these false records. Several local men were named and outlawed from racing in the American Trotting races. This is thought to be more of the strife with Lexington.

Most people thought this charge would nearly end "big time" racing in Rushville. This had been a good business and a fine sport. A great amount of money had poured into the county as a result of it.

Many of the finest houses in the county are a result of this sport. Brick homes, slate roofs and gas wells are evidence of this extra money.

Many fortunes were made and lost due to the speed of a horse. Some owners, trainers and drivers went ahead with racing, but Rush County lost its chance to be the center of racing and Lexington gained undisputed first place.

RUSH COUNTY INDEPENDENT CHAUTAUQUA

Mary Poe Wilson

The articles of Association of Rush County Chautauqua were formed in August, 1909. The following officers signed these articles:

President: Lincoln Guffin

Secretary: Alfred E. Martin

Directors: Charles H. Parsons, Frank E. Wolcott, Raymond Hargrove, Will M. Bliss, Thomas M. Green, John B. Winship, Joseph H. Scholl.

Prior to the forming of this organization, W. O. Headlee, County School Superintendent had provided, at his own expense, an attractive program of entertainment and education for the county teacher's institute. In one of the early Chautauqua programs, tribute was paid to Mr. Headlee and in his reply he said:

"This assembly is a protest against the waste and worry, the haste and tension of the times, as manifested in this commercial age. We invite busy people to come and camp on our beautiful grounds, breathe the wholesome air and build themselves up in body, heart, soul and brain."

The meetings were at first held under a very large tent but a short time later, a coliseum, with a capacity of 2500 people, was built and maintained with funds from the sale of season tickets.

Many fine educators and entertainers were brought to Rushville for a full week each summer with afternoon and evening programs each day. Many events were held for children during this same week also, always under good supervision.

Among the many fine participants in these programs were Wm. Jennings Bryan, James E. Watson, Helen Keller, famous opera singers and Jess M. Pugh, a local man, who made a career for himself as a fine entertainer.

With the advent of Radio in the 1920's Chautauqua became a thing of the past and this ended Chautauqua in Rushville.

Today all that remains of this popular institution is the Sunken Garden in the park, which is planted in the depression left when the Coliseum was razed.

A FARMER'S LAMENT

A correspondent to the Daily Republican has addressed the following to whoever it may concern:

We haven't anything against automobiles and think they are nice things when run right, but when it comes to a man speeding his auto 40 miles an hour through a thickly settled country where farmers are passing back and forth on the road with their teams, then we think it about time for some one to call a halt.

copied from the Daily Republican, Rushville,
Wednesday Evening, May 29, 1912

NEIGHBORS PLEASE NOTICE

Albert A. Hodge

Vance Packard and other social analysts of our day may well believe that we have somehow recently created a great emphasis on social status as reflected in ostentation and conspicuous consumption. My participation in surveys of Rush County architecture of the Nineteenth Century makes me question that analysis In fact it is my contention that for almost all of our hundred and fifty years one of the major purposes of the most noteworthy homes has been to publicly display the original owner's "taste" or lack of taste, and social prestige. Among a geographically stable populous a "big house" has been and is today a very real mark of socio-economic success.

The average nineteenth century Rush County citizen did not generally think of following exactly any one of the basic architectural styles. In fact he did not generally hire an architect. Perhaps, instead he saw a picture he liked in a carpenter's design book or perhaps he ordered a home to be bigger and better than the one down the road. Practically every major home in the county reflects some basic style but also some degree of the unique desires of the original owner or builder.

The fact that we do not find many houses in Rush County in the pure Federal style is indicative of two things. First, that most extant structures date from 1840. Second, that most home builders chose a more modern and more lavish architectural style rather than the simple, understated elegance of Federalist architecture.

In the Greek or Classic Revival mode, roughly from 1820 to the Civil War, Rush County displays some very fine examples. Since the buildings in the nation's capitol are mainly in this style, it was felt by many to reflect some nationalistic spirit as well as good taste. The Greek Revival style may be recognized by the heavy wood cornices or trim under the roof, stocky columns or pilasters at the corners, and a very regular triangular roofline. But most of all the Greek or Classic mode shows perfect balance in size; in window and door openings; and in its overall effect. In figure one, also note the typically Greek lintels over the windows. In Rush County we have found some individualistic modifications of this style. The most common of these are bay windows and ornate brackets under the roof, both of which indicate some Italianate influence.

At about the same time as the Greek Revival, some Rush County home builders were impressing their neighbors with homes in the Gothic style. Most of the Gothic structures, except for churches, are found in the county's rural areas. Gothic style is one of the easiest to recognize. Its steep pitched roof lines, pointed arches on windows or doors, and decorative "gingerbread" woodwork on porches and eaves all add to the

Figure 1. Classic Greek Revival Style

Figure 2. Greek Revival with modifications

Figure 3. Gothic Style

Figure 5. Gothic Style

basic Gothic feature—emphasis on height or vertical lines. Many structures similar to figure 3 appear throughout the county. Note in figure four that the Gothic house needs not be of great size to express the basic theme of the mode. Figure five indicates the use of a Gothic front on an otherwise rather plain frame structure.

The visitor to Rushville or any section of our county must certainly take note of the major Italianate residences, most of which were built about a century ago. The Italianate style must have been highly popular, judging from the relatively large number of these houses in both the city and farming areas. In either brick or frame the Italianate building is generally two stories with a low roof pitch and brackets under the eaves. It would seem that some degree of status was attached to the degree of ornate carving included on these brackets. Indeed the Italianate mode became so popular that brackets even appeared under eaves on sheds, store buildings, and bridges. Some Italianate structures also display round or ornate headers over the windows and bay windows. Figures six and seven are typical of many very similar homes in the area some of which have attractive patterned tile roofs.

Figure 4. Gothic Style

Figure 6. Italianate Style

Figure 7. Italianate Style

The Franco-American style has evidently had only scattered popularity in Rush County since few examples survive. I believe we have no buildings more attractive than these few which display the Mansard roof and projecting dormer windows. These examples from Rushville show the Franco-American style in two story frame and three story brick. In figure nine note the window headers and wrought iron work. The Franco-American mode was most common from 1850 to the 1890's.

Figure 9. Franco-American Style

In the city of Rushville the Neo-Jacobean period best exemplifies the thesis of this article. Neo-Jacobean style is identified by its irregular roof with gables, dormers, and chimneys as well as projecting bays and rectangular sections. Obviously, by this period, the last period of the Nineteenth century, utility and the simple elegance of the classic style had long since been replaced by the ostentatious, massive home which made clear the social status of the original owner. In each of these homes note the lack of regularity, the windows, towers, and most particularly the roof lines which seem to be completely irregular. These fantastic structures in brick or frame give our community much of its character.

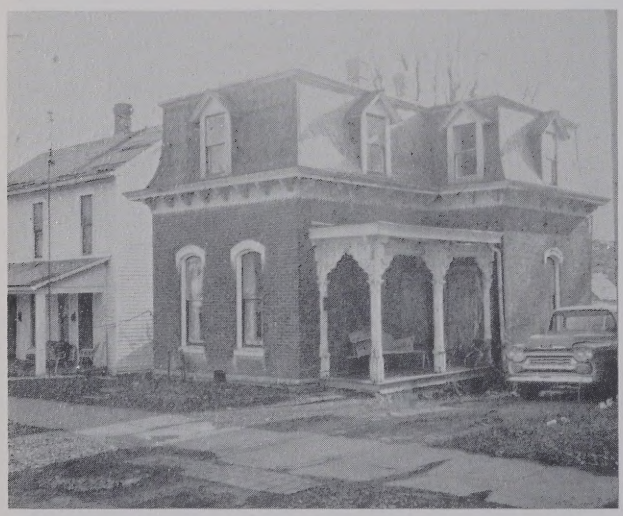


Figure 8. Franco-American Style

Figure 10. Neo-Jacobean Style

Figure 11. **Neo-Jacobean Style**

During this sesquicentennial year, as you drive through Rush County, take time to notice the lovely homes of your neighbors of yesteryear. After all, it was for that purpose that they were constructed in such a lovely variety of forms. One can only wonder how today's new homes will stand up in the eye of historical perspective in another hundred years.

Author's note: For persons interested in more detailed, factual information see Wilbur D. Peat's marvelous "Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century" published by the Indiana Historical Society in 1962. For more information about the specific houses pictured in this article as well as pictures of several hundred other Rush County homes with noteworthy architecture there are four booklets prepared by the Homer Festival of Arts and Crafts history workshop program and published by the Indiana Junior Historical Society.

RUSHVILLE PIONEER IN DIAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Paul Stearley

The telephone industry in Rushville and Rush County records an extremely interesting and colorful history. The original Rushville Cooperative Telephone Company was formed in 1894 and was located in a room above 123 West Second Street in Rushville. The first customers, totaling 49, furnished their own telephones and could only talk to each other.

The Rushville Cooperative Telephone Company became a commerical system in 1898 and started charging a monthly rental for the service. The Company moved to another upstairs room at the southeast corner of 3rd and Main where they continued to operate until a new building was constructed at 321 North Main.

Automatic equipment was installed in the new building and dial service was established in Rushville in 1907, one of the first cities in Indiana to have automatic dial service.

The original stock of the Rushville Cooperative Telephone Company sold for $25 per share and shareowners were never paid dividends on their investment. The shareowners were allowed a 25¢ discount on their monthly telephone bill, however.

The property later became part of the Citizens Independent Telephone Company of Terre Haute, and in 1957 merged with General Telephone Company.

Mr. George Davis, now deceased, was Manager of the former Rushville Cooperative Telephone Company and continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1941 with over 40 years of service. Mr. Paul Stearley succeeded Mr. Davis as local manager that same year.

During the early years, a number of different telephone companies served portions of Rush County, namely Falmouth Telephone Company, Milroy Telephone Company, Orange Telephone Company, Arlington Telephone Company, Ripley Farmers Mutual at Carthage, Commonwealth Company of North Manchester which owned and operated the Mays and Raleigh exchanges.

All of the above communities are now served by General Telephone Company.

RUSHVILLE FIRE CHIEFS

Compiled by Dixie Bennett

F. A. Capp	1873-1874	James K. Mattox	1893-1896	Raymond Benning	1934-1935
Wm. Caldwell	1874-1876	S. M. Thompson	1896-1902	Joe A. Brown	1935-1942
Records misplaced	1876-1880	A. L. Robinson	1902-1905	James E. Brown	1942-1948
George Myers	1881-1882	Homer Cole	1906-1908	Claude Smith	1948-1952
Phillip Heeb	1882-1883	Andy Stiffer	1908-1910	James E. Brown	1952-1956
Alvin Hinchman	1883-1884	Thomas Hughes	1910-1914	Victor Pope	1956-1960
Louis Neutzenhelzer	1884-1886	Walter Easley	1914-1918	Roy Stewart	1960-1964
J. S. Ford	1886-1887	Joe Williamson	1918-1928	Dayton Springman	1964-1968
S. J. Finney	1887-1893	Claude Smith	1928-1934	Chase Waggoner	1968-

ART AND ARTISTS OF RUSH COUNTY

Charlene Call Gray

Many of the early artists were not celebrated painters, thus no celebrated masterpieces were produced, including would-be ancestoral portraits which weren't signed. Among these painters would be the "itinerant" artists who would travel from one large city to another, making stops in the small communities, and remote sections of the country to paint the people, landscapes, etc. Besides paintings, the early artists were called upon to paint signs, glaze or artificially grain wood, stencil ornamental friezes, paint carriages, and put scenic vignettes on doors of iron safes, and even to do cabinet making.

One of the early-mentioned resident artists of Rush County was Edwin Farrer, an Englishman, who decided to make Rushville his home. When Edwin reached New York, he was about ten years of age and probably received some instructions in painting in the East, in addition to his other schooling, before coming to Indiana. His earliest artistic efforts were in the field of scenery paintings for theaters, an occupation that took him to several cities including Cleveland. In 1870 he arrived in Rushville and married Sarah Jane Broadhead. Here he soon identified himself with civic activities and held a county office for many years. He died in 1921 in Indianapolis.

In the latter half of the 19th century, several women painters were active; the most accomplished were Laura Gillford Schofield and Retta Mathews. Laura Schofield developed her own talent by self-teaching, and became in time both a painter and a teacher.

Retta Mathews, whose home was in Alington, had more instruction. She was born in 1856, daughter of William and Mary Mathews. Her training included work in art schools at Cincinnati, New York, and Paris, where she received instructions both in painting and sculpture. She was forced to work with her left hand as her right side was paralyzed. For many years she taught in public schools at San Antonio, Texas. She died in Arlington, February, 1899. Her work was shown in exhibitions in the East and Paris, giving her wider recognition than most other women painters of Indiana. She was commissioned by a group of women to make a statue of the typical Indiana woman, which was exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893.

Thomas E. Hibben, etcher, was born in Rushville, October 22, 1860, and died in New York, July 6, 1915. He lived in Indianapolis after 1864. He was a pupil of Love and Gookins at the Indiana School of Art. He was the first artist on the Indianapolis News. He was an art patron and a collector of paintings and etchings.

Included in this period of time was the following artist; Earnest D. Randall, painter and illustrator who was born in Rush County June 20, 1877, near Mays. He was a pupil at Chicago Art Institute under Vanderpoel and Hubble, and a member of the Art Student League of Chicago, Art Worker's Guild of St. Paul, and the Minnesota State Art Association.

Estol Wilson was born in Rushville. He was a pupil of Francois Biloul and Academie Colorissi, France, did miniature paintings and was represented at Paris Solon.

Near Milroy were the following artists, Harriett Kealer Harcourt who did her best paintings from around 1860 to 1910; and also Mary Harcourt McCarty.

Buried at Moscow are the following artists, Owen Carpenter born June 19, 1873, died July 14, 1938. Also his wife Ethel who painted portraits. Marion Bois was an architect, who was born in 1853, and died in 1929. A sister, Fannie Bois, also painted. She died in 1944.

Other artists were Gene La Velle born in 1876, died 1949; he didn't paint until after 50 years of age. He came to Rush County in 1920 from Madison, Indiana. He was self-taught and did landscapes. Several ladies throughout the county did watercolors during this period of time, among whom were, Grace Blacklidge Spivey, born 1863, died 1920; Leonora Norris and Mary Donnan who gave lessons. A notice in the Rushville paper February 1910—"A large number of members of the Mary Donnan Study Club went to Herron to see St. Gauden's Exhibit of Art. They chartered a special interurban to Indianapolis, and the trip was cancelled a week because of snow."

Elizabeth Schrichte did china painting and one of her paintings won a prize at the St. Louis World's Fair.

Other artists mentioned are Howard Folger Pressnall (a commercial artist) in Indianapolis, Zeno Hodge who studied 3½ years at John Herron Art School. Billy Felts (a woodcarver), Dollie Ross, Leota Wolfel, Carrie Cross (did china painting), Ruth Bowen Kelso, Esther Olham, Rozza Archer, Dudley Campbell (was a weaver, and did scratchboard and lapidary work); Hazel Price, Lillian Horton (did china painting), Mary Carpenter, Hazel Morris, Clarence C. Richey, Alice Crabb, Una Greenwood, Mildred Veatch, Charles Beckner, Louise Poer, Minnie Worth Brown, Josephine Stevens, Opal Benedict, John B. Schrichte (monument sculpture), and Mae Moore.

One of the most productive artists in the county was Joseph A. Archer who did sign painting, including gold-leaf signs, sculpture, ceramics, wood carving and sculptures, oils, pastels, watercolors, sketches, pen and ink drawings, and anything else he put his mind to. The amazing part is that his eye sight was so bad in later years that he was unable to read but still produced a multitude of very good work.

The county was blessed with many art teachers in and out of the school systems; they were; Henrietta Coleman who taught 1922-1936, Elizabeth Jane (Betty)

Foster 1937, Donalda Heminger Smith 1939-1943, Eva M. Penn 1944, Ruth Stout 1945, Ben O. Rifner 1947-1955 (served as President of Art Education Association of Indiana and still serves on many committees dealing with art throughout the state. Ben also started night classes and began teaching numerous of the active artists of today), and Melvin Gray 1955-1972, teacher and supervisor of art for the Rushville Consolidated School system.

Mr. Gray attended John Herron School of Art for three years. Butler University, received his B.S. in education from Indiana State University and his M.A. in Art from Ball State University. He is a free lance artist and a skilled crafttsman. He has served as art director on the County Fair Board, as representative to the Governor's Commission on the Arts, as president of the Art Education Association of Indiana, as chairman of the art section of the Indiana State Teachers Association, and as a representative to the National Art Education Association—where he assisted in organizing the first States Assembly for Art Educators. Locally Mr. Gray designed the terazzo emblem at the high school and has designed several items for the sequicentennial. He is presently serving as decorations chairman for the sesquicentennial. He has also exhibited throughout the state, and is a member of the Whitewater Valley Art Association and local art association.

Other teachers in the area were Ruth Simpson, Sara Jinks, Velma Civits, Zella Hunsinger, Una Greenwood, Barbara Shaw, Berdie Johnson, Mary Carolyn (Mickey) Howell (a former resident who served as President of Art Education Association of Indiana). Teaching art in Rush County in the school system in 1972 are Melvin Gray (high school and supervisor), Norma McGinnis (high school), Wilma Lee Hester (Junior high), Helen Seright, Betty Harcourt, Richard Carter, Faith Ellison, Dorothy Bond, and Pamela Hodge (all in the lower grades).

Private art teachers in the county are Mae Campbell, Zola Wright, Dorothy DeArmond (member of the Hoosier Art Salon), Farrer and Fern Ewbank, Ramona Kuhn, and Charlene Gray (a graduate of John Herron Art School and a member of the Whitewater Valley Art Association.)

Commercial artists in the county are Dick Parrish, Willard McCane, Edward Dickson, John Terhune, William Heistand, and Jim Frost.

One of the young artists who has become well known is Professor Delbert Michel, formerly of Rushville. He is teaching at Hope College, Holland, Michigan. He worked at the Tate Gallery in London, England. He had a one-man show at Earlham College and has exhibited throughout the United States.

Helen Manning is a local artist who is a member of the Brown County Art Gallery and the Homer Art Gallery. She does portraits, animal portraits, landscapes and still-lifes in various mediums. Her paintings are shown in Brown County and she has sold them throughout the United States.

Other artists are Edna Faulkner, Monty Howell, Walter Swain (leather craft), Otto Busard, Bob and Emy Waggoner, Ann Kidwell, Ruth Gordon, Mary Taylor, Abbigail Hutton, Morieda Fordice, Mae Campbell, Mae Coffin, Ronald Coffin, Doris Hamilton, Janet Justus, Martha Connerly, Eva McElfresh Beaver, Tom Kelso, Shirley Ruby, Jackie Edwards, Ann Hood, Claudia Bridges, Phyllis Pond, Thelma Burge, Ola Criswell, Jack Billheimer, and Peg Crowder.

Some of the young artists in the field are Tim Ludington, Dare Smith, Bonnie Brownell Montgomery, Barbara King, Bill Evans, John Walker, Ronald Wilson (leathercraft), and Donna Joyner (who designs cards for Hallmark in Kansas).

An art club was in existence in 1910 in Rushville. The Creative Art Association was started by a small group of local artists under the guidance of Melvin Gray in February 1957. Each year it sponsors an annual art exhibit.

The largest and most intense effort to promote and sustain local interest in arts and crafts started at Homer in June, 1967. A great deal of thought was given to what could be done, and the result was formation of a Homer Festival of Arts and Crafts Committee. This committee immediately solicited the interest, participation and support of the Creative Arts Association of Rush County.

Dates were set; plans were made; publicity released, and by the time mid-June rolled around everything seemed ready. People came to see the painters, water colorists, sketchers and etchers demonstrating their skills and selling their wares. Along the grassy mall and under the pleasant shade tree ceramists, potters, jewelry makers, weavers, spinners and quilters worked their magic, and showed passersby how they did it. Folks from all over the midwest joined the citizens of Rush County in the joy of participating in or observing the wide variety of talened performances taking place.

In the succeeding years other artisan and creative arts have been added to the field of demonstration. The performing arts are represented also.

The historical arts and crafts of past generations in Rush County are presented and displayed in collections of antique tools, artifacts, needlework and other handiwork. Fine cooperation from the artists, craftsmen and collectors of the county, plus help from all over the midwest has made the Homer Festival a real factor in an increased interest in arts and crafts in our community.

All funds exceeding the direct expenses of the festival are used to hold summer workshops at Homer, for young people of the county. Teachers and laymen assist in planning the weekend sessions. Workshops are held in drama, art, woodworking, history, and other related areas. Thus the festival contributes in one more way to the artistic community.

A Kennedy bridge under construction, with piling still in place under one span.

THE BRIDGE-BUILDING KENNEDYS

Mildred McMillin Benson

Honest, painstaking workmanship lavished upon the exquisite covered timber bridges erected by the Kennedys has resulted in 6 bridges remaining in Rush County today for our enjoyment.

Paternal ancestors of the Kennedy family are believed to have come to America from Ireland about the middle of the 18th century. Family records date back to John Kennedy, who was born in Guilford county, North Carolina, July 26, 1782. He was married in 1805 or 1806 to Charity McMichael, likewise a native of above county, born May 9, 1790. To this union was born 10 children. Of these the 6th was Archibald McMichael, born August 25, 1818. The John Kennedy family emigrated to Indiana in 1826, settling on a farm 2½ miles south of Alquina in Fayette County. In 1834 the family moved to Rush County settling in a locality west of Arlington known as Beaver Meadow. John Kennedy moved to Platte County, Missouri in September 1845.

Archibald M. returned to Fayette county to farm, married Henrietta Langston of Union county, May 10, 1841. To this union were born Mary Josephine (Stoops), John Bennett, Emmett Loren, Emily Florence (Coleman), Charles Freeman and Franklin Perry.

Archibald began working at the carpenter trade in 1841, which he followed for 12 years. In 1853 he moved the family to Wabash county where he supplemented his carpenter work with small bridge construction. In 1857 he returned to Fayette county, then in 1864 settled in Rush County, acquiring 247 acres situated 4 miles northeast of Rushville where he erected a fine two-story home of brick made from clay taken from his premises and the dwelling was one of the showplaces of its neighborhood. It is still standing. He lived there until his death.

He was a self-educated man, at all times well informed. He was a colorful and able orator and invariably embellished his speeches with humorous stories. He was reared in the old Democrat school, but after the inception of the Republican party was one of its ardent supporters, being for many years a leader in local political affairs. In 1870 he was chosen to repre-

sent Rush County in the General Assembly and in 1876 was joint representative for Rush, Ripley and Decatur. In 1886 he was elected senator from Rush and Hancock. He was strongly advocated for Congress before the convention of the Republican party in North Vernon in 1874.

The bridge-building chapter began in 1870 when he was awarded the contract for a bridge over the East fork of Whitewater river one-half mile southeast of Dunlapsville in Union County. (After several years of endeavor to save this bridge and move it out of the Brookville dam area, it was destroyed by fire last year.)

Since he had erected a barn in 1849 on the Israel Freeman farm between Dunlapsville and Roseburg, it was natural that Archibald and son Emmett should go there in search of living quarters during the construction of the bridge. This period of residence provided an unexpected romantic interlude. On the day of arrival, May 8, 1870, Emmett met Martha Ann. Courtship blossomed and on September 14, 1870, they were married in the Freeman home. They immediately made their residence in Rushville and Emmett entered into active partnership with his father in bridge construction.

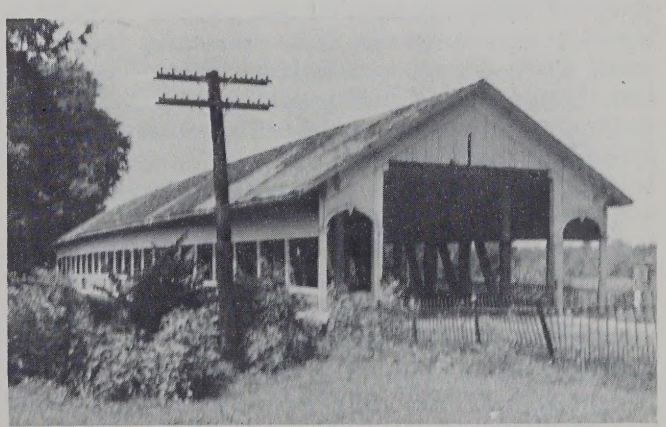
As was the custom in those days, the construction of piers and abutments, designated as substructure, was contained in a separate contract. The stone work was generally laid by someone else. The superstructure was made entirely of oak and pine. Most of them were constructed using the Burr truss construction which combines the arch and truss principles to permit long wooded spans with little or no midstream support. This insures great strength and rigidity without excessive bulk. A few shorter bridges did not have the arch.

Characteristic of the Kennedy bridges are the rounded archway above each entrance, the ornate brackets beneath the roof overhang of each gable and the scrollwork on the side trim of each portal. All the bridges had horizontal siding which added strength and all were painted white. Paint was prepared at the bridge site by mixing white lead and linseed oil in an old wooden tub. 4 were built with arcaded walkways on either side. The Raleigh bridge had a walkway on only one side.

During the era of greatest building activity, Emmett operated a large bridge timber yard in Rushville, situated on the north side of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroads, (Later B. & O.) east of the intersection with the Vernon, Greensburg and Rushville line (later Big 4). The yard was a block in width and 1½ blocks long. Although considerable native oak was used, the bulk used before 1900 was white pine shipped in from Michigan. It was easy to shape, cheap and plentiful. Emmett made periodic trips to Michigan by train to contract the white pine logs and expedite their shipment to the bridgeyard. The timbers were in most cases completely prepared for framing, even to boring the bolt holes, before being reshipped to the bridge site. It was said the Kennedy workmen became so adept at framing in the yard that the shaping of timbers was placed on a veritable "production line" basis. The time required to construct a bridge depended upon the length, the location and the difficulties encountered. For example the contract for the Vine Street bridge of December 23, 1891, specified to open the following March 1 was priced at $27.50 a lineal foot or a total cost of about $5,000.00. Tools most commonly used included a foot adze, in which the cutting blade is crosswise to the handle, the broadaxe, in which the blade is parallel to the handle, the tenon saw, a ship's auger and numerous types of planes for finishing and detail. An erection crew at the site normally consisted of 3 or 4 key men and 15 to 25 workmen customarily recruited from the ranks of local carpen-

Bridge at East Connersville right after completion, 1887

Bridge over Flatrock at south edge of Rushville



East Second St. Bridge (East Hill Bridge), at Rushville.

Laying the cornerstone at Dillsboro School, September 28, 1922 at 2:00 p.m. This picture shows members of the Kennedy family together. Front row unknown. Back row; John Kennedy, Karl Kennedy, Emmet Kennedy, unknown worker and Charlie Kennedy

ters. Specifications and all erection details for the East Hill bridge are on file in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Archibald withdrew from the business in 1883 and Emmett's brother Charles formed the partnership of Kennedy Brothers. Charles was severely injured in a fall from the framework to the stream below on the Circleville bridge and was incapacitated for several weeks. In 1886 Emmett took over the entire business.

Charles became a lawyer, became interested in horseracing and was Indiana State Board of Agriculture secretary. He later served in a similar capacity for west Michigan State Fair at Grand Rapids and was re-elected to the Indiana state Board until his death in 1921.

During the winter of 1872-73, Emmett was ill and, while convalescing, conceived the idea and built a model of the Kennedy bridges. This was something tangible to be seen and understood. He constructed a case into which the model fitted so he and his father could conveniently carry it to show and demostrate to the Boards of Commissioners who let the contracts. The model is 42 inches long of burr arch construction, made in direct proportion to the large bridges, of scraps of bridge timbers and put together with bolts made by a local jeweler. It has the same number of posts, struts, lateral braces, bolts, clamps, keys and floor beams. It will hold weight of over 250 pounds and was made with a penknife. The records show the East Connersville bridge, considered by the family to be the masterpiece, was to carry 6000 pounds live load but was known to carry 20 tons many times daily. This is one of the many examples of the marvelous construction and strength of the bridges. The model has been loaned by the Kennedy family to the Rush County Museum where it may be seen.

In the 1890's steel and concrete bridges became popular and Emmett returned to general carpentry and the drilling of gas wells. His wife cooked the first meal with natural gas in Rushville September 14, 1899. He built barns, homes and school houses; also some furniture for family use.

The flood of 1913 destroyed the Long bridge at Metamora and Emmett and son Karl were called upon to reconstruct the two span structure.

Later the firm of E. L. Kennedy and Sons built the Norris Ford bridge in Rush County in 1916 and the last, the Mitchell bridge in Wayne County in 1918. The sons involved in the business were Karl (Dec, 15, 1893-Jan. 26, 1967), Charles R. (March 29, 1882-Nov. 12, 1962) and John W. (March 20, 1892-Sept. 30, 1949). Another son, Leonidas L. (March 23, 1877-Aug. 7, 1962) was not involved in the bridge business. Four children had died in infancy. One daughter, Mrs. Charles Herman (Nick) Tompkins, born April 28, 1879 died March 19, 1971 in California. One daughter, Mrs. Harry A. McMillin of Rushville, R. R. 7, survives.

E. L. Kennedy passed away at his home in Rushville December 13, 1938, having been manager of the bridge business all three generations, doing business as A. M. Kennedy, A. M. Kennedy and Sons, Kennedy Brothers, E. L. Kennedy, and E. L. Kennedy and Sons.

The 18 Rush County bridges are:

1873 Ferree, 2 mi. NE Milroy, A. M. Kennedy & Sons, (in use)

1877 Smith, 2 mi. NE Rushville, A. M. Kennedy & Sons, (in use)

1878 Shelhorn, 2 mi. S. Milroy, A. M. Kennedy & Sons, purchased in 1933 by Lake County and re-built in Fairground Park, Crown Point (in use)

1879-80 Perkins, 2 mi. W. New Salem, A. M. Kennedy & Sons, replaced in 1964

1881 Mud Creek at Homer, A. M. Kennedy & Sons, washed out by flood in 1892; used as a sheep barn on farm nearby

1881 East Hill, east Rushville, A. M. Kennedy & Sons, replaced in 1940

1881 Swains Mill, 2½ mi. SW Arlington, A. M. Kennedy & Sons, replaced in 1959

1882 ½ mi. S. Arlington, A. M. Kennedy & Sons, replaced

1882 Raleigh, A. M. Kennedy & Sons, replaced 1953

1883 Circleville, A. M. Kennedy & Sons, taken out of use in 1942, after efforts to preserve were given up, it was torn down in 1949

1884 E. edge of Arlington, Kennedy Brothers, replaced in 1926

1884 Offutt's Ford, 2 mi. NE Arlington, Kennedy Brothers, (in use)

1884 Conn's Creek, 1.3 mi. S. Homer, Kennedy Bros., replaced in 1967

1884 1 mi. S. Orphan's home, no information, replaced

1885 Over Little Flatrock below Milroy, replaced (Facts are hazy on this)

1886 Moscow, E. L. Kennedy, Longest 2 span bridge in use in Indiana

1888 Forsythe, 2½ mi. NE Moscow, E. L. Kennedy, (in use)

1916 Norris Ford, 4 mi. NE Rushville, E. L. Kennedy & Sons, (in use)

RUSH COUNTY AGRICULTURE

Marion Liggett and Lawrence Porter

Agriculture,–that is a big word for Rush County. As we plow from road to road today it is hard to visualize how that same field looked 150 years ago. A man would try to clear enough tree tops and work around the stumps to raise some grain for his family's use and for livestock feed, as producing food was the main object in those days to survive. As a matter of fact it still is; the blight year of 1970 caused such a drop in corn yields that the nation had only six weeks supply of feed grain on hand when the 1971 harvest started, which was the record yield to date for the nation.

The first settlers in Rush County found the land covered with trees. The level lands were wet and filled with swamps. Many settlers moved on after "fever au'aiger" had taken the toll of their families; we would call it malaria today.

Many of the settlers came from Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia. They were called "Upland Southerners" and were in search of cheap fertile land. By 1837 there wasn't any more land to be bought from the Government in Rush County. Most of the land was sold in 80 acre tracts. There were 10,000 people in Rush County in 1830, 16,000 in 1840, 19,500 in 1880 and the population now stands at 21,500.

Let us look at Rush County's land as they found it. South and east of Flatrock River was older land and most of it had natural drains. North and west the land was shaped by a later glacier that left pockets which had not yet cut for themselves natural drains unless it lay close to a stream. Drainage was very important and the farmers used wood planks for tile until the clay tile was made. Most tiling was done after county ditches were put in use which afforded the smaller tile a good outlet. The land was fertile and remained that way for almost 100 years with proper care and rotation. In the 20's there was seen a shortage of plant food. Land was called "worn out", but it was just tired, so they rested it with legumes. Commercial fertilizer was being tried and some farmers used as much as 25 pounds per acre. Today the use of fertilizer has jumped to twenty times that, plus 400 pounds of limestone per year. Today the land is no better than its keeper. Conservation is being used more today than ever; we realize that when Flatrock River's waters flow muddy, part of Rush County is leaving . . . never to return.

About anything that will grow has been raised here at least once. Flax was grown to make linen which was woven in with wool to produce the fabric "linsey-woolsey". Tobacco was grown on a large scale and a few large tobacco barns still stand. However, low prices and labor shortage have reduced the number of allotments to seventeen for a total of 11.2 acres in this county this past year. Tomatoes and other "canning vegetables" were grown and several canning factories sprouted over the county, but only one factory remains near Milroy.

Most all types of feed grains can be grown here and prove most profitable. The settlers brought with them the seed from the previous year's crop. Wheat, oats, and rye were of the French and English varieties. Wheat was the most versatile crop to be grown for family use. Bread was the staff of life and wheat flour was much in demand. There was also less chance of losing a wheat crop. Every animal and bird had its eye on the farmer's crop, and the farmer had very little defense against "varmints". Wheat was sown between the standing corn rows or broadcast by hand and worked into the soil with a tillage tool by a man and one horse.

Later it was sown by a small drill pulled by a horse between the standing rows of corn, but most of it is now drilled following the harvest of soybeans or corn. Years ago, the land was fallowed (plowed and disked) for wheat but it is not a paying practice now and most wheat is now broadcast by huge spreaders and disked under in one pass.

Wheat once accounted for about one third of Rush County's crop acreage, but now covers only ten percent of the land. Oats that were once necessary as farm livestock feed are now used mainly as a cover crop to produce a stand of grass. Oat production here cannot compete with the large quantities produced in the northern parts of the United States. However, they are still a very good feed grain and some fine stands of oats still dot the countryside.

Soybeans got a late start in Rush County. They were hard to harvest, but with the advent of the combine and better standing and yielding varieties, they have taken their place with other important crops. The first "cow peas" were raised for hay crops and the beans from these varieties were usually black and were low in oil content. But with the expanding uses of soybean oil and by-products, new high-oil-content varieties of better vigor and yield have been produced to meet this demand. We use more soybean oil in our food than lard and more of it in our daily lives than petroleum products, excepting gasoline and lubricants.

Corn, Rush County's gold, is king. It is the oldest crop (that is, if the Indians were growing it here first). The first corn the white man saw on this continent was a tall thin stalk with a small ear of hard sharp flint grains. The Indians were growing it on the Eastern shores in small patches sown in hills.

The first corn was a member of the grass family and in its primitive state was hardy enough to compete with other grasses and broadleaf weeds. Corn has been changed so much through selective breeding that if the corn in a field was not harvested and allowed to grow voluntarily the next year, there would be no corn growing in just five seasons. Corn now depends on man and man depends on corn.

Corn is an easy plant to crossbreed. Its male and female structures are separate from each other. This permits the isolation of pollen and flower and allows the pollen of one plant to pollinate the flower of another corn plant. Men first saved kernels from their best ears of corn as next year's seed. As simple as this method is, it is the basic step in selective breeding and greatly improved the vigor and yield of corn through progressive generations. This method of seed selection was used until the late 1920's. After this, farmers began hearing of hybridized corn. This seed has been specifically crossbred to produce a better strain of seed. Hybridized corn was first planted in Rush County in the early 1930's. It took only about seven years until all seed corn was a hybridized variety. Hybrid seed corn is probably the greatest achievement and asset of twentieth century agriculture. It was the first demonstration of agricultural science on a practical and beneficial scale.

Rush County men such as Newton Halterman, Russell Kinnett, and Floyd Hiner produce hybrid seed and grow the finest reasons for the use of hybrid seed corn. Just recently, the Pioneer Hi Bred Company located the world's second largest seed corn processing plant two miles west of Rushville. Seed produced here is grown all over the nation and even shipped to foreign countries. More corn leaves the farm as grain and less is used in the production of livestock.

Mr. Floyd Hiner and family have taken Rush County grown grain to International Grain Shows and captured the International Crown several times. In fact, they have taken the Corn and Soybean crowns in the same year. Grain is certainly a quality product of Rush County as well as one of quantity.

Since grain could be shipped to market on hoof easier than in wagons, Rush County became a major meat producing county. There were over 300,000 head of hogs sold annually at one time. Now the number is about 200,000 head. Cattle are still a large factor in our economy. We find the milk cow has taken her place in the large dairy herd and not as just the family cow. Her dairy products of milk, cheese and butter were a source of the family's daily food and the cream money would buy the weekly groceries along with the eggs they would take to town to trade for staples for the pantry shelf. The greatest change in livestock industry in Rush County has probably been from having a few of every kind of animal to having larger quantities of just one kind, and on many farms we do not find any animals at all.

Man's use of power, other than himself, is one of the reasons for the county's outstanding production. The settler brought himself, family, horses or oxen as his power. He used what he found, mainly water and wind. Fire was another factor as it could change things and was later used for steam power. The first settlers used every animal and implement he owned as tools to their fullest extent. There is no coal or iron-bearing ore in Rush County, therefore, all the steel used had to be brought here. Most of the early farm implements were made of wood; only the hand tools were steel and they were made in the East. A man living in Biblical times could have settled in Rush County and have been a farmer and fed his family. The advance in farm tools came slowly, mostly taking place in mills and factories in the east.

The water wheel was used in several places in the county. Wm. B. Laughlin, the founder of Rushville, built a mill on Flatrock and the mill pond was later destroyed by angry citizens of Rushville who thought the stagnant water was a source of their sickness. Of all the water-powered mills built, the Nipps Mill and Smelsers Mill are the only two remaining, and only the structures remain of them.

The tradesmen soon went to work for the people of Rushville and the farmers. Joseph Thrasher and Hiram Bell were blacksmiths. Henry Beckwith was the first wagon maker. In 1840 the Carmichael Mill was built at the foot of Morgan Street. It was used as a grist mill to grind grain and at the same time work a long saw blade up and down to cut off a board from a log. Wm. B. Laughlin built a still but the first one ready to ship its products was built by Colonel Alfred Posey in Circleville in 1856. It was an easy way to ship corn, as one bushel of shelled corn made 5 quarts of liquid, this was one way of getting 40 bushels of corn in a barrel and still have all the mash for hog feed.

The crops were harvested, usually, the same way the farmer learned from his father. Wheat was cut with a sickle and tied in a bundle. The cradle was not used until the 1830's. In 1831 a young man 22 years old living at Walnut Grove, Virginia pulled a machine with a horse that cut the wheat and he raked it off in straight bunches. Cyrus McCormick improved his machine, and in 1834 he got his first patent. He made and sold 7 in 1842, 29 in 1843 and 50 in 1844. In 1874 he made his first wire-tying binder and in 1881 he switched to string. Mr. McCormick passed away May 13, 1884 on **Rush** Street in Chicago. That same year his company made and sold to date 54,841 machines. It was said that the sun never set on his reaper that wasn't working in some part of the globe. Mr. McCormick didn't invent his twine knotter; a boy of 18 by the name of Apply in Wisconsin invented the knotter and this was the only twine knotter ever used on a McCormick Deering Binder. For over 65 years Rush County men, women and boys shocked wheat to the tune of the "butter" and the "slap" of the kickers.

The Young Hoosier

GRAIN DRILL!

This Drill is designed principally for

Seeding Among Standing Corn,

But is handy for

DRILLING in ANY GROUND.

J. F. HARCOURT & BRO.

Milroy, Ind.

There were many tools made in Rush County; the Harcourt wheat drill at Moscow and the Norris wheat drill factory stood where the old Norris School stood. The Hoosier Corn Turner was made at the northeast edge of Rushville until the days of the one row wheat drill came to an end. Many a man has made a tool that was the best in the world only to find someone else not too far away was making a better product. After the Civil War, some of the modern developments of the Industrial Revolution were reaching the farm. But even before this, some attempts were being made at replacing muscle power with mechanical power. Elwood Hillsen and Noah Small of Carthage travelled to New York and after visiting several shops making portable steam engines, they found a shop in Troy, New York, manufacturing small, sturdy engines. However, the boilers were upright and did not suit these two men. They left specific orders as to the type of engine they wanted. In time the engine was delivered and was immediately belted to a new threshing machine and threshed wheat on the Joseph Overman's farm northwest of Carthage on that first day. The "threshin' rig" then moved to the Jesse Hill farm where it threshed 350 bushels in one day. The engine was used for about twelve years, sawing wood in the winter and threshing in the summer. Elwood Hillsen is believed to be the first man in Rush County to turn to steam power.

At one time, there were sixty-four traction steam engines listed in the Assessor's book in Rush County, and some men owned more than one engine. This did not include the stationary engines in factories and mills. There are still three traction engines to be found in Rush County. Two are owned by Lawrence Porter who still operates a saw mill and threshes with these engines and one owned by Verle Maple, also an avid steam fan.

On July 22, 1873, a steam engine blew up in Jackson Township and killed three men and several horses. The actual account can be found on page 3 of the Rushville paper on that date. There were also reports of steam locomotive explosions in this county and one man was killed north of Gings by a locomotive.

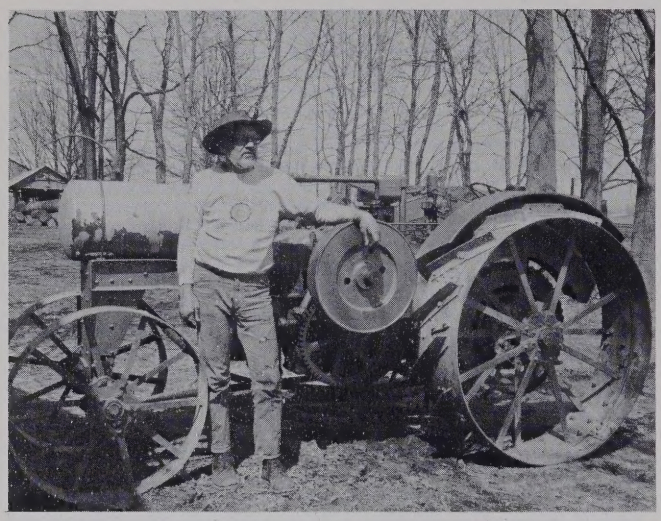
At the close of World War 1, there were over 25 million horses and mules in the United States. It took one-fourth of all harvested crops to feed the power animals. In only twenty years the number of power animals had been reduced to 12 million because of the increased popularity of the steam and gasoline engine. Today there are less than 500,000 horses in the United States, and very few are used for work purposes.

The steam engine could live off of the land just as the horses could. The engine usually burnt wood from the sawmill and some were designed to burn straw from the straw stack; an almost endless fuel supply. The first steam traction engines required one thousand pounds of weight per one horsepower. The first tractors took about 750 pounds per horsepower and tractors of today take around one hundred pounds per horsepower.

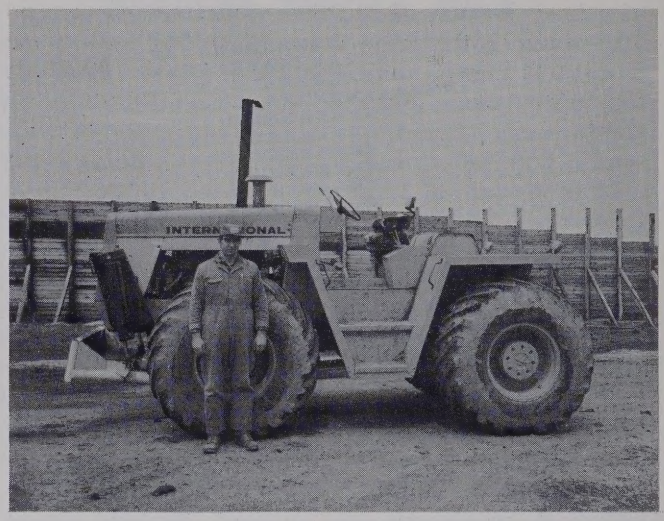
With the coming of the internal combustion engine came the early counterparts of todays powerful and swift farm tractors. The first tractors were used to pull regular horse drawn equipment and for many years farmers kept horses for the light work and as a replacement when the tractor broke down. The tractor plow was the first tool to be made exclusively for the tractor. Soon, the other tillage tools became too large to be pulled by horses. As an example of the superiority of the larger tractor, in 1910 it took 135 hours of labor to produce one hundred bushels of corn. Only fifty years later it took just 23 hours to produce the same amount and today even less time is required.

To show some of the firsts in advanced farming techniques and some of the oddities in these first attempts, the following are cited. In 1867, Thomas Minnis of Meadville, Pa., started turning the raw prairie sod within sight of the new Iowa State Agricultural College with his "steam plowing locomotive" as the interested students watched the billowing smoke. Daniel Best (a noted engine maker) built, in 1889, a steam traction engine with two rear drive wheels each fifteen feet wide and nine feet in diameter entirely of wood. This montrosity weighed forty-one tons. It was used in a large river basin underlaid with gravel to support its weight. Happily, Rush County was spared this "rock crusher".

The John Deere Plow Company was established in 1837 when John Deere, a village blacksmith, made the first plow moldboard entirely out of steel. The steel was strong and would polish well which made it suitable for the tough black prairie sod. In 1892 John Froelich made a tractor using a Van Duzen engine on a Robinson chassis. This tractor operated a threshing machine for fifty days in temperatures of -3 to 100



Lawrence Porter's International tractor of 50 years ago



Willkie Farm's new 6100 International tractor of today

degrees. This tractor was the forerunner of the John Deere tractor. The John Deere Company bought the Waterloo Boy Company in 1916. This engine had a twin horizontal cylinder engine design with a 180 degree crankshaft and burnt kerosene. This was the basic engine design for all John Deere tractors for over forty-four years. Finally, in 1960, the horsepower race could not be won using only two cylinders and John Deere switched to four and six cylinder power plants.

In 1929, John Deere Company wanted to experiment to see if a business could be made profitable by selling only one line of equipment. They asked William S. Winship, a Rushville citizen, to organize such a store. The first true implement store was a success with over one hundred tractors sold in 1937 alone. Mr. Winship bought the business from the company in 1944 and it is now owned by his son, William M. Winship, and grandson, William M. Winship, Jr.

The farm machinery business is no longer handled by the hardware stores that sold plows, wagons, and tools for over 100 years.

In 1905 the Ohio Manufacturing Company bought the Morton patents and made a few tractors for International Harvestor Company. By 1910 International was producing a fine line of two cylinder "Mogul" tractors that produced 45 Horse Power. Then in 1915 they were making the four cylinder "Titan" and by 1918 they came out with their first practical power take off.

W. A. Alexander bought a McCormick Deering manure spreader and the company hired his son, Donald Alexander, to demonstrate at the old Rush County Fairgrounds. Tools were sold by salesmen and then shipped in, usually by railroad.

By 1900, there were thirty firms making 5000 steam traction engines a year, but tractors were already starting to come in because of the shortage of fuel in the prairie and the water being alkali.

In 1917, Moline-Universal was the first tractor to use a battery for starting, ignition and lighting.

In 1916, a Briton, General E. D. Swinton saw the Holt Caterpillar in the west, went home to England and designed the tank with two engines, one for each track, put on armor plate and mounted a turret and guns. This tank was a success against the German trenches in the 1st World War.

The Fordson tractor could be bought for $395 in 1932. The Moline cost $650 in 1932, where it had sold for $1325 in 1921. The depression spelled an end to many tractor manufacturers.

1924 found the International Harvestor Company building its first Farmall. It was the first successful attempt to build a real all-purpose tractor and did much to further mechanization on the farm. International paid the John Deere Company one dollar per tractor because John Deere held the motor-powered corn cultivator patent and International mounted plows on their tractor.

In 1935 the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company fitted Allis Chalmer tractors with "pneumatic" tires and A. C. sold 14% of that year's production on rubber.

Harry Ferguson, in Ireland, brought to this country some new developments—the hydraulic system and the three point hitch. His development of hydraulic systems has become standard or optional equipment on practically all models of tractors today.

As was mentioned earlier there were 5000 steam engines made in 1901 and in the year of 1951 there were 793,497 tractors built.

In 1947 the Cockshutt Plow Company of Ontario came out with the "Live Power Take Off". The same year Allis-Chalmers used the Power Shift Wheel, a method that used the tractor's power to adjust the rear wheel tread.

In 1958, Case came out with the Torque Convertor and Ford followed with the "Select-O-Speed." Now many companies offer "Shift on the Go". No one would buy a tractor now without power steering. Even cabs are returning only this time with heat, air-conditioning, radio and television.

Rush County farmers have enjoyed being a part of this great power advance and, truly, work is still long and hard but more enjoyable.

There are many new ways to accomplish what the settlers had to work hard to do. Rush County moved into a new era in 1938 when the R.E.A. brought electricity to every rural home that wanted it. Electricity has been used on the farm in almost every practicial way. It takes care of most of the chores and frees men to spend more time in the fields. It would be hard for him to convince his family to leave a modern home and go with him to settle 80 acres and build a cabin regardless of how cheap the land was.

There have been more advancements in agriculture in the last 50 years than ever before. It has even been necessary to educate the adult so he can keep up with this advancement. The Government, through its Land Grant Colleges, started the Extension service in 1912. Through this service the knowledge was brought to the Farm and Home—not through books but by leaders working with the people.

Rush County was led through the war years and afterward by a leader who loved the people and gained their confidence. Mr. Clarence Spuller served Rush County for twenty-three years as an Extension Leader.

The farmer does more than just work and provide for his family; he leaves that which he uses in a better condition for future generations. Will Rogers once said, "Invest in real estate, they aren't making it any more". We have all turned our thoughts to land usage, but because we still experience food surpluses and not shortages we haven't taken conservation to heart. No doubt some future generations will find our ways crude but today Rush County is a wonderful place to live.

As a farmer you get to know your land and, as people do, it too will respond to kind treatment. While brushing the soil away to find how close the planter is dropping the corn you might find an arrow point, untouched by hands for over a thousand years, which proves this land has supported its inhabitants for a long time. Land alone is no assurance of plenty. I like the thoughts that Ralph Waldo Emerson had in mind when he wrote, "For what avail the plow or sail, or land or life, if Freedom fail?"

THE FIRST STEAM POWER THRESHING MACHINE

Lewis Rule

Joseph and Noah Small, Elwood, and Isaac Hill were the first persons in the west, and as far as I know, in the United States to apply steam power to the separator. In 1856, Elwood Hill and Noah Small visited a number of machine shops in the East. They found at Troy, N. Y., a shop manufacturing portable engines, but the boilers were upright and did not suit them. They gave their plan and ordered an engine built and shipped to Carthage, Indiana.

They purchased a separator of Hasselman and Vinton of Indianapolis, Indiana.

The boiler was laid in a bolster, like a log on a wagon, and an old man or boy with a horse and a small sled and a barrel kept it supplied with water; so after considerable labor the engine and machine were in order for work. The trial was made on the Jesse Hill farm east of Carthage in the presence of many witnesses. It was a success. The first job thrashed was Joseph Overman's northwest of town. They could thrash from three hundred-fifty to four hundred bushels per day.

This little engine thrashed wheat, made pumps and sawed wood about Carthage for about twelve years. Then Thomas L. Marsh bought it to make tile with. Later William Pratt of Greenfield bought it to run a corn sheller, then finally it is supposed it found its way to a junk pile.

Edward Hillsen was the first to turn on steam, and I was the second. It was made of the best material. The man who built it came all the way from New York to see it thrash.

In the summer of 1857, Joseph Small had an engine made with many improvements, steam and water guages and a whistle, and of greater horse power.

Messers. Butler and Morris of Dublin, Indiana, had one shipped to them. They purchased a separator, and both machines proved a success.

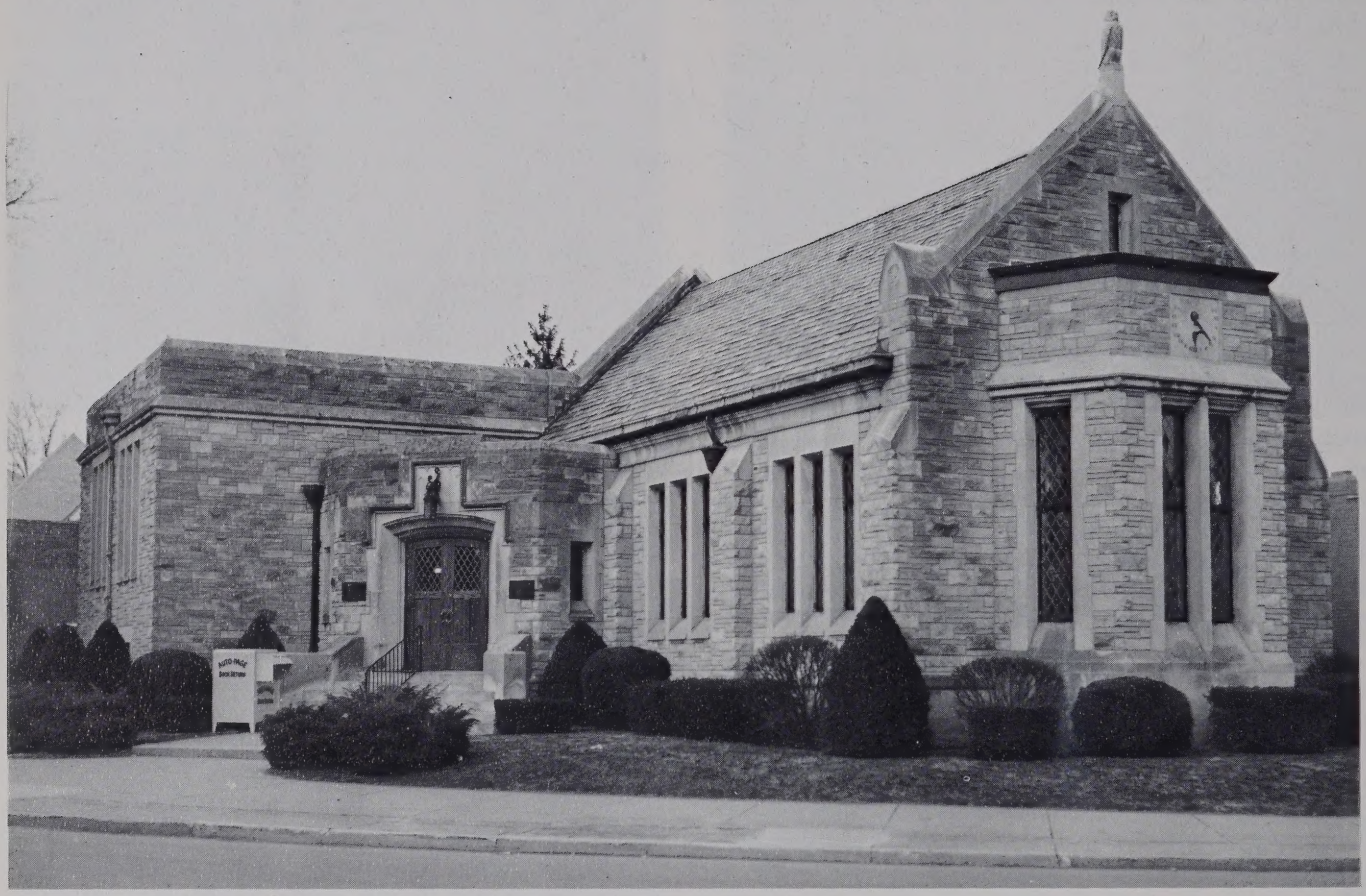
In the winter of 1857, Messers. Hasselman and Vinton obtained permission of Joseph Small to take his machine to their shop, for the purpose of getting patterns to commence the manufacture of portable engines.

Garr, Scott and Company, got Butler and Morris', took it to Richmond, Indiana, and commenced to manuture them. From this beginning the whole western country has been overspread with steam thrashers.

In 1864, I thrashed with one machine 31,000 bushels at seven cents per bushel. I was drafted that year, and it took my profits to pay out of the army. So I ran it for Uncle Sam that year.

In 1875, the crown head of the boiler gave down while my hand was on the throttle-valve wheel, and I was badly scalded.

Hancock County, Indiana, Sept. 15, 1881



RUSHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Nancy Waggener Oster

No story of Rush County is complete without the history of the libraries which have been established since the county was set apart and Rushville was named the county seat in 1822. It will not come as a surprise to those students of history, who know of the many 'firsts' attributed to Dr. Willam B. Laughlin, to discover that he was the first president of a Rush County Public Library organized on November 8, 1822. In a valuable minute book of this association, presented to the Rushville Public Library in 1911 by Miles S. Cox, details of the organizational meeting come to life. Having determined that the board members had been qualified "as the Statute directs", the oath was administered to William B. Laughlin, President, Peter H. Patterson, Stephen Sims, Reu Pugh, John Alley, and Charles H. Veeder. The officers were elected by ballot, with Pugh being treasurer, Alley the librarian, and Veeder the clerk. A committee was named to draft rules for the organization; the president and the clerk were instructed to ask the agent of the county to turn over the money which had accrued from the ten per centum appropriated out of the sale of town lots; and the treasurer was ordered to purchase a supply of books, if funds permitted. Books listed on this first order were Jefferson's Notes on Virginia; Smith's Wealth of Nations; Goldsmith's Abridgements of Greece, Rome, and England; Campbell's Philosophy of Rhetoric; Society and Manners in America; Life of General Marion; Knickerbocker's History; Spectator; Tom Jones; Wirt's Life of Patrick Henry; Chateaubriand's Travels; Woodfall's Junius; Peter Pindar; Peregrine Pickle; and Salmagundi.

Having accomplished this impressive amount of business, the board adjourned until January 10, when Horatio G. Sexton and William Klumb were duly elected and qualified and took their seats. By the February meeting, the board was prepared to adopt rules for the library, and the librarian's duties are of particular interest. Mr. Alley was instructed to be in the Library room at least one hour every Saturday to loan books; he was held personally accountable for the books loaned out; and he was permitted the use of the library books, but could keep them out no longer than it was permitted for others to borrow them! It should be noted here that there was no salary for the librarian until 1826, when it was agreed to pay him $.25 per week, with $5 for services rendered during the previous two years.

The minutes of this board's meetings continue to present interesting insights into the Library's efforts to meet the needs of the pioneer settlement. The rules and regulations detail the method of "detaining a book out of the library". Fees and fines were paid according to the size of the volume—the smallest, a duodecimo, could be borrowed one week for 2 cents, with a fine of 12½ for returning it late. A folio, with a borrowing fee of 12½ cents, could be kept for four weeks, and the fine for tardiness was 50 cents per week! Only one volume could be borrowed at a time, and the borrower was not permitted to loan it to another person. To insure attendance at board meetings, members were fined $.50 unless they had a good and sufficient cause for absence.

To increase the available funds, subscriptions were circulated among the people of the community, and anyone paying into this fund was permitted access to the books. By May of 1824 another list of books was ordered, a committee having been established to choose suitable titles. This committee also had the obligation of inspecting the library books, and reporting the condition of them to the board. The fall of 1826 saw the end of the three year term of the trustees, and a new group was elected in September, with Robert Thompson as the second board president. A detailed financial statement at this time shows that the library had received a total of $312.12½ in the three year period, and disbursements for books and other expenses left a balance of $143.81¾. Indications are that this library was in existence until 1839 or later, but we have no definite knowledge of the eventual fate of this first public library in Rush County.

The Gary and Thomas Centennial History of Rush County also mentions the existence of a Maclure Library Association in Rushville, to which references were made in the Rushville papers. The first notice was in 1857. An 1860 paper details the weekly meetings of the "Workingmen's Library Association". This was a title applied to the original library established by William Maclure in the New Harmony experiment of Robert Owen, and these libraries were later extended into other communities. Little is known of this library—a mention is made that P. A. Hackleman, Esq. lectured on the importance of persons returning books belonging to the association before the next meeting!

In April of 1877 a committee was appointed by the YMCA to consider the question of establishing a public library and reading room. This committee, consisting of Rev. J. W. Conner, Miss Anna Caldwell, Mrs. R. O. Moffett, Mr. Marshall Newhouse, Mr. A. Barnard, and Mr. Greely Mauzy, submitted a report recommending that an appointed committee of five persons solicit donations of $5 from one hundred citizens "for the purpose of fitting up the lower floor of the Christian Church in Rushville for a reading room and laying the foundation of a public library". The church, then located at Morgan and Second Streets, had offered the free use of its room, and for some time a small library was maintained. It is thought that this dissolved in the early 90's.

The history of our present Rushville Public Library is closely related to the establishment of a Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Rushville in September, 1909, with one hundred and nine active members. They were undoubtedly the "Woman's Liberation Movement" of their time, looking for a cause to espouse, and Mrs. Mary Alexander suggested a book shower to start a public library. The beginnings are detailed in the first minute book of the board by the secretary, Jessie E. Gary (Mrs. A. L.)

"On February 22, 1910, the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held a reception and book shower at the courthouse. The response of our citizens was so generous that we received a sufficient number of volumes to serve as the nucleus for a library. A little later, the County Commissioners granted the use of three rooms in the court house for library and rest rooms. June 11, 1910, the library was opened with a reception at which several prominent citizens expressed in brief addresses a strong interest in the library movement. Thus encouraged, the ladies undertook to obtain a City Library by conforming with the conditions of the State Library Laws. Subscriptions to the amount of $1,400 were obtained. In December, the Court, the Council, and the School Board appointed members of the Library Board.

"On January 11, 1911 the Board received from the DAR for the city the books and furnishings of the Library". Mrs. Florence Moore (J. A.), Regent of the DAR at the time the library movement was started, was the chairman for the organization meeting of the board on January 11, 1911. Other members were Mrs. Grace Spivey, Mrs. Jessie Gary, Mrs. Mary Morgan, Will M. Sparks, B. F. Miller, and J. H. Scholl. Mr. Sparks was elected president, Mr. Scholl vice-president, and Mrs. Gary secretary. At this time there were 886 volumes in the library, with a daily average of 35.5 circulated. Miss Mary Sleeth, who had been serving as librarian, was continued in that capacity at a salary

Miss Mary Sleeth, first librarian

of $35 per calendar month "payable on the 11th day of the month". A committee was named to draft by-laws which were adopted at the next meeting, January 16, 1911, and the Rushville Public Library was finally underway! A committee was also named to select books, assuring the expansion of a fine collection.

Many persons now living in the community will remember these library rooms which occupied the northeast corner of the main floor of the courthouse. Miss Sleeth remained as librarian for many years, and patrons will recall her assistants as Miss Edith Wilk (later to become Mrs. Wendell Wilkie), Miss Lena Buell, and Miss Jennie Madden. As the book collection and circulation increased, it was evident that larger facilities would be needed, and several citizens made gifts which were the nucleus of a building fund. The generous bequest of Sarah Banning of $22,500 was made in 1926, and others followed from Edward Austin, A. G. Reeve, and Charles Alger. In 1928, the present site at Third and Morgan was purchased for $10,000, from the I & C Traction Company. On the site still stood the old home of Capt. J. H. Mauzy, once one of the most elegant houses in Rushville, which had been sold to the traction company for a general office and station in 1903.

Soon afterwards bonds were issued for $20,000 to insure a sufficient amount, in addition to the gifts noted, for an adequate building program. The firm of McGuire and Shook of Indianapolis was employed as architects for the new library, and the beautiful structure of Bedford limestone was completed and ready for occupancy on January 16, 1931. Oak furniture to complement the paneling and beams in the Gothic structure was designed by board member Roy Waggener and produced at the Park Furniture Company in Rushville. The new building contained a large reading room on the lower level, with a central charging area up a short flight of steps. From this area opened the children's reading room, the librarian's office, a stack room for books, and a reference room. The basement included a large room available for club meetings and community gatherings, plus work areas for processing books. Members who served on the board during the planning and completion of the present structure were Jessie E. Gary, president; Blanche Abercrombie, vice-president; Eva Wilson, secretary-treasurer; and Mary Morgan, Hugh Mauzy, B. L. Trabue, and Roy Waggener.

The book collection moved to the new library consisted of 12,000 volumes. Many gifts were made at this time and in subsequent years by various persons in the community to improve the beauty and facilities of the building. In the will of Elizabeth Pattison Schrichte, a farm in Union Township was given in memory of her parents, Margaret and John R. Pattison, with the income from the farm to be used for the purchase of children't books. A gift of bonds from Mrs. Schrichte provides income for library improvement purposes, and a beautiful painting titled "Christ and the Woman of Samaria" by Fontana which greets the patron as he enters the main reading room, is a reminder of this woman's generosity to the library. Other furnishings and works of art were contributed by the Music Study Club, Mrs. Frances Green, and the Shakespeare Club.

Since moving into the library building in 1931, several changes have been effected in the interior which have produced more usable space for the books and patrons. Metal stacks were added in 1954 which doubled the book storage capacity in the stack room, and in more recent years, oak cases to match the interior woodwork have been added to the main reading room. A series of art objects contributed in memory of friends by Bob and Emy Waggener add to the attractiveness of every room. The community meeting room in the basement has been completely shelved, and now houses the collection of periodicals, which are kept for ten years. The basement work rooms have been converted into areas used by the public. In the music room is a new record player purchased in 1972 with funds given in memory of Leo Durbin. A record collection is stored in a cabinet purchased with funds from the estate of Mrs. Ora Lower. A history room has also been provided, where geneological records and books concerning Rush County and Indiana history are available to the public. In keeping with the founding of the Rushville Public Library, DAR records and memorabilia are housed in this room. A memorial book program was established in 1957, and through these gifts in memory of loved ones, many books are added which might be considered beyond the ordinary budget of a library.

It is difficult to define all the areas in which the public library serves to enrich the character of a community. The influence of books on the minds of people has long been recognized, and one of the important areas to be served is the need of children for good books. In 1951 a Summer Reading Program was started to encourage youngsters to maintain their reading skills, and this has been a popular program since that time. Following the completion of a required number of books, the group is entertained in some manner by the library staff and board. For many years, the children enjoyed an annual outing at the Briar Patch, summer home of board member Roy Waggener. Recently, they have been entertained at a special movie at the local theatre with refreshments served afterwards at the library. In the summer of 1971, 167 children finished the summer reading program. In the fall of 1971 a children's reading hour was instituted and has proved popular with pre-school children and their mothers. Mrs. Lloyd Query has been in charge of this project.

No history of the library would be complete without a listing of the persons who have served as librarians throughout the years. Miss Mary Sleeth was still head librarian when the library was moved to its present location. She was followed in tenure by Miss Margaret Hager, who in turn was succeeded by Mrs. Thelma Hungerford. When Mrs. Hungerford left, Miss Helen Greely, who had been employed at the library since 1934, took special courses and succeeded in qualifying as a certified librarian. She held the post of head librarian until her death in 1966. Since that time, Mrs. Russell Schermer has served as acting librarian. Currently she is assisted by Mrs. Ralph Ball, Mrs. Joseph Walker, and Julia Kunz, a student librarian. Mr. and Mrs. Cy Bradley are the custodians.

From left to right, Alva Newhouse, custodian; Helen Greely and Jennie Madden, assistant librarians; Thelma Hungerford, librarian. Photo taken in 1940.

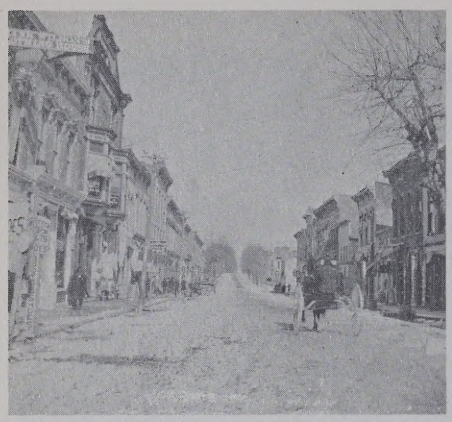
Interior shot of library, looking south

Two other persons who gave long and faithful service to the present library are Miss Jennie Madden, who served at the courthouse library and then in the new building until her death in 1959 (a total of thirty years or more), and Mrs. Bessie Colvin, who served for twenty four years.

Currently, the Rushville Public Library houses 29,000 books and subscribes to 66 periodicals. The circulation of these in 1971 totaled 77,000 and the budget was $27,245. Many faithful Rushville citizens have served on the board of trustees without compensation throughout the years. President of the board is Walter Stevens, Ruth Ann Foster is vice-president, Nancy Oster, secretary, and Rudolph Walker the treasurer. Rita Cameron, Jane McManus, and Ray Forkner are the other members. The board meets once a month on the last Monday to conduct the business of the library.

As the present library board moves into the Sesquicentennial Year of Rush County, new and exciting prospects are opening up for consideration. The consolidation of schools in the county has made a county-wide library system seem more attractive than ever, and it is hoped that this may be accomplished in the near future. Consultations with all types of libraries in a five county area (Wayne, Franklin, Union, Fayette, and Rush) is looking toward cooperation in a Library Services Area which would provide quality library service to every citizen. A graduate librarian is being hired by the board with the hope that he may lead us into new areas of service for library patrons which have so far been unexplored by our present system. Members of the Board are looking forward with enthusiasm to the challenges presented by a new age.

STREET SCENES IN RUSHVILLE AROUND 1890 AND NOW



North on Main from 2nd St.

West on 2nd from Main St.

West on 3rd St. from Main St.

Looking north on Main St. from 1st St.

Main St. Looking south from 3rd St.

North on Main St. from 1st St.

South on Main St. from 3rd St.

West on 2nd St. from Main St.

North on Main from 3rd St.

EARLY FARMING

Sarah Newby

During the first year or years before hay and grain could be produced the stock ate wild grasses, weeds and vines that grew in the woods. Elm, beech, and maple trees were felled in the winter for stock to eat the fine twigs.

Each herd had a "bell cow," each flock a "bell sheep," and sometimes a horse was "belled" so as to locate them when turned loose to pasture. An owner often knew his stock by the tone of the bell. Cattle and hogs were sometimes marked, and branded and registered at the county seat.

Corn was used for food for man and beast; as more land was cleared, flax, wheat, buck wheat and oats were sown. For years corn was "dropped" and covered by hand with hoes. When the one-horse "hop jack" came in use to cover the dropped corn it was a wonderful improvement; finally single drills, double drills and check planters were invented.

After the hoes and wooden mold-board plows came single-shovel plows, the double-shovel and triple-shovel plows, walking gang plows, riding gang plows, steel mold boards and steel heavy walking plows for breaking; and finally tractor plows for breaking and cultivation. Such other implements as harrows, rollers, cultipakers and discs are comparatively recent inventions.

Small grain was sown broad cast and worked in with a crude harrow or by dragging heavy brush over the ground; much later came the single and double drills. Wheat and oats were cut with "reap hooks" before the "scythe and cradle" was made; then came the reaping machine with a dropper, then the hand rake where a man stood on the machine to rake the grain off; finally the self-binder that used wire instead of twine; which has been improved; now the tractor and combine.

One year Henry Newby had six acres of wheat blown to the east or northeast so that it was difficult to save it with "scythe and cradle." Few men could use the "reap hook" then, but he hired Jacob Siler, Jacob Reddick, John Reddick, George Wells, John Earnest, and Jonathan Phelps, and one or two others, all of whom could cut wheat with "reap hooks." They would cut a swath four or five feet wide across the field, and place the wheat in bunches and placing the "reap hooks" on their shoulders, would go back across the field each man "binding" his row of bunches into "bundles" (sheaves) and "shocking" them—ten sheaves firmly "set up", and two sheaves "broke" in the middle and put on for "caps." When dry enough the wheat was stored in the barns to be beaten out with "flails" or "trodden out." When the weather was cool was the best time; the "treading floor" was cleaned off and swept, and a circular layer of sheaves placed close together with the heads toward the center, another layer placed inside of that with heads against the heads of the outside row, and the bands cut. Horses tied together in pairs were driven around and around over the "bed" of the wheat until the grains were all knocked out. The straw had to be turned occasionally. When done, the horses were taken out, the straw cleaned off, and wheat and chaff piled up in the center of the "treading floor," another "bed" put down and the process continued.

Then the wheat was either cleaned by tossing in the air on a windy day, or run through a "fanning mill" twice, if there were one in the settlement. A great improvement came in the horse-power "chaff-piler" or "ground hog thrasher" some called them. The "treading floor" was generally used. The machine was a cylinder with iron or steel spikes that run in a concave with similar spikes at a rapid rate—it was run by a heavy horse-power iron gearing, with levers to which to hitch four to eight horses that walked in a circle. The sheaves of wheat with bands cut were fed through the cylinder part; two hundred or three hundred bushels could be thus threshed out in a day. The wheat was run through a "fanning mill" to clean it from the chaff.

Next came the "horse-power separator," then the steam separator. Henry Newby owned a "chaff piler" machine and thrashed his own and many of his neighbor's wheat.

Flax was sown in the spring and when mature and seed ripe was pulled by hand and tied in bundles, and taken to some grassy place and spread thinly in rows, and left several weeks so that the woody part of the stalk would decay to some extent and become brittle with injury to the fiber, and put in better condition by being more easily split into fine threads.

It was bound and kept dry until winter, then on a cool, bright day was pounded with a "flax break," i.e. a wooden, bench-like machine having parallel bars on which a bunch of flax was placed, and pounded with a heavy block on which were placed parallel bars to correspond with the lower part until most of the woody part was knocked out. Then to knock out the rest, a ten-inch board was driven into the ground and a bunch of "broken flax" was held over the end of the board and "scutched down" with a wooden "scutcheon knife." Then bunches of flax were drawn many times over the sharp points of the "hackle;" this flax and "tow" was ready for spinning on the "little wheel," and was woven into cloth for table-cloths, sheets, towels, and clothing.

Wool was picked, washed, "carded" into "rolls" and spun into yarn on the "big wheel," and dyed. Wooden reels were used to wind the yarn in hanks or "cuts" and used in weaving blankets, flannels, "jeans" and "linsey-woolsey" for clothing.

THE RUSH COUNTY FAIR

Jean Green

In 1851 a group of men interested in agriculture organized and held the first fair. The first site was close to where the lower cemetery is located on South Jackson Street. W. S. Hall was Grand Marshal. There were no horse races but many fine cattle and horses were shown in the ring. The principal attraction was a buffalo brought in by Pierce Guffin who lived near Mauzy.

The second fair was held near the site of the old B and O Depot and the present Havens School.

In 1852 a Rush County Agricultural Association was formed. It was reorganized in 1853 and at the suggestion of the Republican Company the directors sold stock. On May 23, 1856, the Association purchased 11 acres of land from Joseph Lakin for $950.00. The first fair was held at this site in 1857 two miles east of Rushville on Highway 44.

David Wilson was in charge of the first fair and 2,000 people thronged the grounds the first day. Entries in the various divisions numbered in the thousands.

The fair of 1863, during the Civil War, was the first in which the Rush County Agricultural Society went out of debt and had a surplus of $300.00.

The premium list published in the Rushville Republican June 27, 1866, for the 10th annual fair, to be held Sept. 11, 12, 13, 14, listed the cost of single tickets at 25¢, annual member family tickets at $1.50, horse and buggy 40¢, and a man and a horse 35¢. The flower division had 17 classifications with a cash prize given winners in each class.

The big attraction was the running and pacing horse races in the afternoons. The ring between the hills at the Fair Grounds was used for exhibiting and judging premium stock. Cattle, both dairy and beef cattle of different breeds, draft horses, light harness horses, farm teams, Shetland ponies were featured in a parade at one P.M. For years William Alexander acted as ring marshal. He would ride back and forth between the barn and grandstand calling out names of show animals in the parade and awarding blue ribbons.

For years the C.H. and D. railroad ran a shuttle train to the Fair Grounds. The trains would take on passengers at Fourth and Main Streets and puff slowly out to the Fair Grounds. Later the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Traction Co. ran interurban cars to the Grounds. The Railroad ran its last train in 1908.

A small bridge near the Fair Grounds operated for a number of years as a toll bridge. Persons were charged 2¢ for use of the bridge going out and 2¢ coming in from the grounds. Road 44 was as "dusty as a dirt race track."

The business houses closed on Thursdays, the big day of the Fair, so employees could attend. For many years the local Post Office maintained a branch office on the grounds.

The last Fair was held on the old Fair Grounds in 1917. Because of the War and because interest in horse racing had waned, the Fair was no longer profitable. The fair grounds and buildings were sold at a sheriff's sale.

After almost a decade without a Rush County Fair, a group of citizens in the fall of 1926 organized a Free Fair, with W. A. Alexander as president and Glen Foster, treasurer. In 1927, the Fair was held in Memorial Park.

From 1931 until 1934, under the sponsorship of the Rush County 4-H Club Council, regular exhibits of the 4-H clubs were held in the Court House and on the streets of Rushville.

In 1935, under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce, a horse show was held and a full scale adult show of all classes of livestock. The site was again moved to the Park. In 1939, the carnival and concessions were added and the exhibit of agricultural machinery.

In the fall of 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Ora Lower of Homer purchased and deeded to the Rush County Agricultural Association 18.6 acres of land adjacent to the Memorial Park. In 1942, the Association erected two livestock buildings, each 40 by 144 feet to permit the showing of animals.

Since that time, the Rush County 4-H Fair has been an annual event. The Board of Directors consists of farmers, breeders, and businessmen selected from the county according to their ability and interests.

The officers of the Rush County Agricultural Association of 1972 are Wallace Wissing, president; John R. White, vice-president, Kenneth Brashaber, secretary, and Gail Abernathy, treasurer.

The Fair in 1971 had livestock concessions, agricultural exhibits, implement and industrial exhibits in the Lower community center of the Fairground. The Home Economics exhibits, Homemaker Club Displays, Vegetable, 4-H Electric, 4-H photographs, Flower Show, Art, Ceramics, and 4-H conservation projects were shown in the Rushville Memorial Gymnasium, and the 4-H Home Economics projects and 4-H crafts in the High School Multipurpose Room. The recently constructed community building housed industrial exhibits, appliances, and home furnishings displayed by local merchants.

For several years the Queen Contest, with Wayne Logan as superintendent, has been held Thursday. A Queen is selected each year to preside during the Rush County Fair Week and to compete at the Indiana State Fair in September.

Poultry, sheep, swine, dairy and beef cattle, horses and ponies are shown. The steer sale is held on Friday evening. The custom of having a Saddle Horse Show to open the Fair on Sunday continues. The local Tri Kappa Sorority awards a cash prize each year to the best painting representing Rush County.

Best bull 2 years old and under 3..$12 00
Second best..... 6 00
Best bull 1 year old and under 2.... 8.00
Second best..... 4.00
Best bull calf..... 5.00
Second best..... 3.00
Best brood cow 3 years old and over15.00
Second best..... 8.00
(Offspring to be proof and on exhibition.)
Best heifer 2 years old and under 3..10.00
Second best..... 5.00
Best heifer 1 year old and under 2, 5.00
Second best..... 3.00
Best heifer calf..... 4.00
Second best..... 2.00
Best fatted bullock.....10.00
Second best..... 5.00
Best fatted cow or heifer.....10.00
Second best..... 5.00
Best three fatted bullocks, by one man.....20.00
Best steer 3 years old and over.....10,00
Best steer 2 years old and under 3.. 5.00
Second best..... 3.00
Best yoke of oxen.....10.00
Second best..... 5.00
Best herd of cattle consisting of one bull, three cows or heifers, 1 year old, owned by one man...20.00
Best Devonshire bull 3 years old and over.....10.00
Best Devonshire bull 2 years old and under..... 5.00
Best Devonshire cow 3 years old and over..... 8.00
Best Devonshiee heifer 2 years old and under 3..... 5.00

CLASS VI.

SWEEPSTAKES ON CATTLE.

Best bull of any age.....20.00
Best cow of any age.....15.00

CLASS VII.

FARMING IMPLEMENTS.

Best threshing machine.....15.00
Best reaper and mower.....10.00
Best clover huller.....12.00
Best two-horse wheat drill..... 3.00
Best one horse wheat drill..... 2.00
Best two-horse plow for general purposes..... 5.00
Best double shovel plow..... 3.00
Best single shovel plow..... 2.00
Best one-horse bar plow..... 2.00
Best two-horso corn plow..... 5.00
Best wheat screen..... 2.00
Best cultivator..... 2.00
Best two-horse harrow..... 3.00
Best straw cutter.....$2.00
Best cider mill..... 2.00
Best hay rake.....$2.00
Best ox yoke..... 1.00
Best feed basket..... 1.00
Best apple pealer..... 1.00
Best seed sower..... 1.00
Best single mower..... 5.00
Threshing machine and clover huller to be tested on the Fair ground.

CLASS VIII.

MANUFACTURES.

Best two-horse carriage.....15.00
Best top buggy.....10.00
Best open buggy..... 6.00
Best spring buggy..... 6.00
Best two-horse wagon.....10.00
Best sulkey..... 3.00
Best rifle gun..... 1.00
Best sewing machine..... 3.00
Best parlor stove, for wood..... 3.00
Best cookstove, for wood..... 3.00
Best portable dry house..... 2.00
Best bee hive..... 1.00
Best half dozen brooms..... 1.00
Best churn..... 1.00
Best barrel flour..... 2.00
Best monument.....10.00
Best and greatest variety furniture.10.00
Best front door..... 3.00
Best inside door..... 1.00
Best pair outside window shutters.. 1.00
Best inside pivot blinds..... 2.00
Best window sashes..... 1.00
Best window frame with sash hung, 2.00
Best sample weather-boarding..... 1.00
Best collection mouldings for house work..... 2.00
Best sample stair steps and balustrade..... 3 00

CLASS IX.

LEATHER WORK.

Best set carriage harness.....10.00
Best single harness..... 5.00
Best wagon harness..... 5.00
Best gent s saddle and bridle..... 5.00
Best lady's saddle and bridle..... 5.00
Best pair gent's calf boots..... 3.00
Best pair gent's kip boots..... 2.00
Best pair lady's calf shoes..... 1.00
Best pair lady's morocco shoes..... 1.00
Best and greatest variety of custom made boots and shoes..... 5.00

CLASS X.

MILLINERY AND FANCY WORK

Best display of millinery..... 5.00

Best specimen lady's head-dress....$2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best specimen lady's cap..... 2.00
Best specimen artificial flowers..... 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best specimen hair wreath..... 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best specimen pin cushion..... 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best specimen lady's watch case.... 1.00
Best specimen fancy work box..... 1.00
Best specimen needle case..... 1.00
Best specimen of ornamental bead work..... 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best specimen tidy..... 2.00
Second best..... 1 00
Best specimen lamp mat..... 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best specimen ornament'l shell work 2.00
Second best..... 1.00

CLASS XI.

NEEDLE WORK, TATTING, ETC.

Best specimen lady's needle worked collar..... 2.00
Second Best..... 1.00
Best specimen silk embroidery..... 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best specimen worsted embroidery.. 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best specimen child's braided cloak 2.00
Best specimen infant's braided dress 2.00
Best specimen infant's braided skirt 2.00
Best specimen infant's braided waist 1.00
Best specimen child's socks..... 1 00
Best specimen needle work..... 2.00
Best made gent's shirt..... 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best collection of lady's furnishing goods..... 5 00
Best made hoop skirt, made in Indiana..... 2.00
Best satchel for night dress..... 1 00
Best knit wool shawl..... 2.00
Best made pair pants by lady..... 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best made vest by lady..... 2 00
Second best..... 1.00
Best pair wool stockings..... 1.00
Best pair wool socks..... 1.00
Best pair wool mittens..... 1.00
Best pair stockings knit by a girl under twelve years of age..... 1 00

CLASS XII.

QUILTS, ETC.

Best white worked quilt..... 5 00
Second best..... 3.00
Best calico patch-worked quilt.....$5.00
Second best..... 3.00
Best gingham patch-worked quilt.. 5.00
Best worsted patch-worked quilt... 5 00
Best silk patch-worked quilt..... 5.00
Best bed comfort..... 3.00
Second best..... 2.00
Best counterpane..... 3.00
Second best..... 2.00
Best coverlet..... 3.00
Best home-made wool blanket..... 2.00
Second best..... 1 00
Best factory wool blanket..... 2 00
Second best..... 1 00

CLASS XIII.

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES, ETC.

Best five yards white flannel..... 2 00
Second best..... 1.00
Best five yards plaid flannel..... 3.00
Second best..... 2.00
Best five yards home-made jeans... 3 00
Second best..... 2 00
The above must be strictly home-made, except carding.
Best five yards factory made jeans, 3.00
Second best..... 2.00
Any of the above jeans may be made by machinery.
Best home-made wool carpet..... 5.00
Second best..... 3.00
Best homo-made rag carpet..... 3 00
Second best..... 2.00
Best table linen..... 1.00
Best five yards flax linen..... 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best five yards tow linen..... 2.00
Second best..... 1.00
Best one pound of home-made wool yarn..... 1.00
Best half pound flax thread..... 1.00

CLASS XIV.

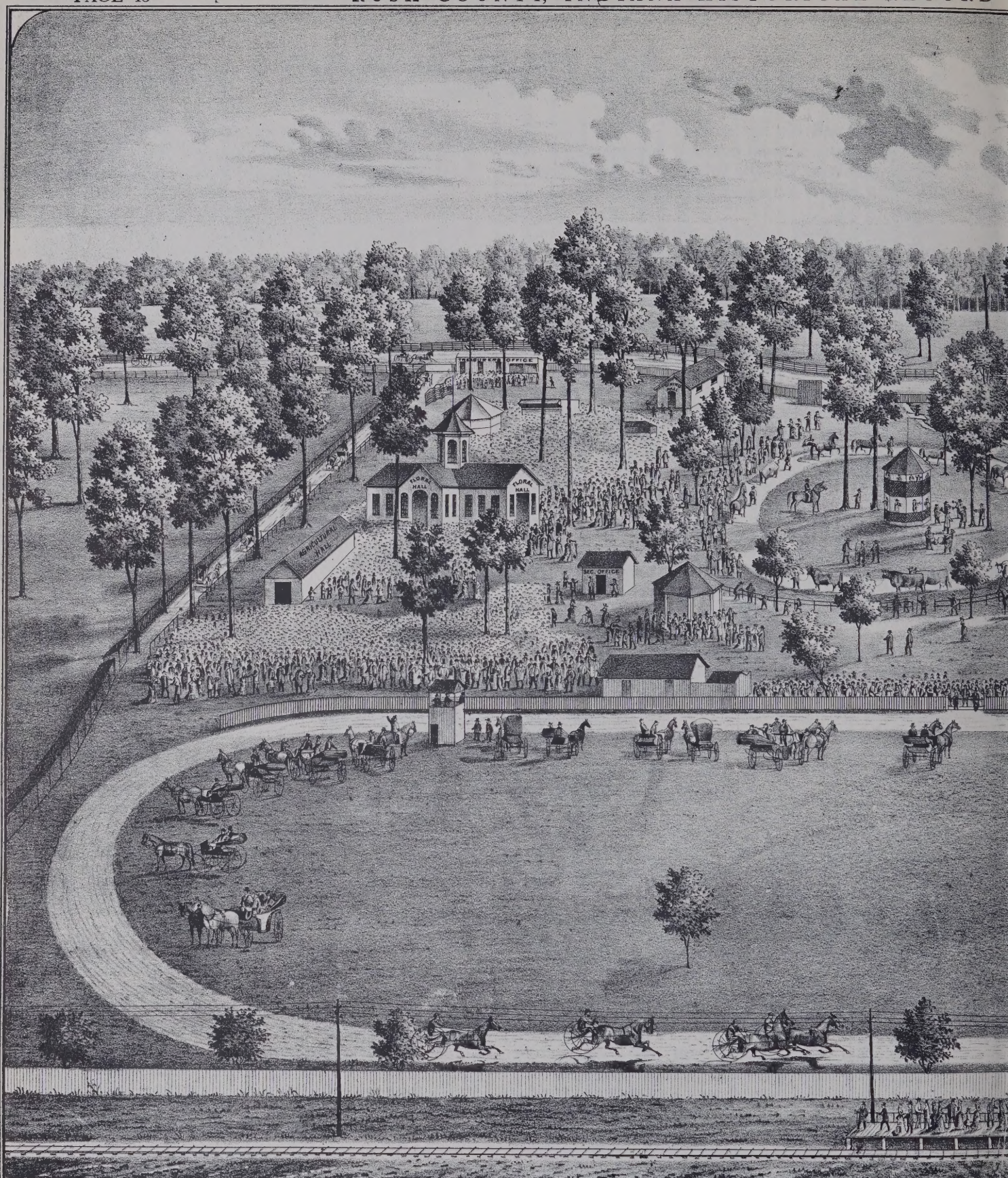
FLOWERS AND SHRUBBERY.

Amateur's List.

Nurserymen and dealers in green house plants can not compete in this class.
Best display of green house flowers 3.00
Best display of dahlias..... 3.00
Best display of fusias..... 3.00
Best display of cut roses, all kinds 2.00
Best six varieties verbenas..... 3.00
Best display cut flowers, all kinds.. 2.00
Best display flowers in pot, all kinds 5 00
Best six varieties roses, grown in pot..... 3.00
Best floral ornament and display of plants of all kinds elegantly displayed in any form..... 5.00

RUSH COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL 1822 – 1972 – – – – – – PAGE 47

Reproduction of some premium lists from the book of the county fair of 1870, held September 13, 14, 15 and 16.



OFFICERS { D.P. SHAWHAN, PRESIDENT; Wm. M. BROOKS, VICE PRESIDENT; L. LINK, SECRETARY; J. B. REEVE, TREASURER; J. T. HINCHMAN, SUPERINTENDENT; T. V. MITCHELL, RING MASTER

RUSH COUNTY

Reproduction from atlas of 1879, showing the fair grounds at the site of the pres

AIR GROUNDS

DIRECTORS { E. KING, THOS. A. JONES, J. P. CRAWFORD, R. W. RICH, S. GREEN, J. T. MILLIN, Wm CARNEY

Conservation Club. The view is looking south, toward the present state road 44.

MILITARY HISTORY OF RUSH COUNTY

John N. Hughes

1st Lt. Cav. A. U. S. (World War II)

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The Revolutionary War was over years before Rush County was in existence, but many veterans were early settlers and became permanent residents. Records show burials and pensions as follows:

Known Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in Rush County, Indiana:

John Aldridge
James Bromlee
George Brown
Robert Caldwell
John Carson
Isaac Cox
Thomas Cassady
David Fleener
Benj. Gosnell
Jacob Hackleman
Jacob Hite
John Legon
John Lewis
Patrick Logan
William Mauzy
John Miller
David Peters
Zephaniah Posey
Henry Smith
Michael Smith
William Smith
John Wyatt
Robert A. Groves
Samuel Iles

Prsons drawing Revolutionary pensions in Rush County, 1835:

John Aldridge, buried on Aldridge farm in Orange Twp.
Aaron Carson
Samuel Caswell
Ebenezer Clark
Isaac Cox
Benjamin Cruzan,
Henry David
Isaac Duncan
Leonard Edleman
Matthew Gregg
Daniel Grant
Jacob Hite
John Hardy
Thomas James
James Lane
John Legore
John Lewis, buried near Flatrock
William Mauzy, buried at East Hill
Henry Mezer
John Pollock
Aaron Redman
John Riley
Henry Smith) buried
Michael Smith) Pleasant Run
William Smith) graveyard
John Yarbrough
John Finney
John Watson

Persons drawing pnsions in Rush County in 1840:

Joel Berry)lived in
John Carson) Noble
Michael Smith) Twp.
Henry Smith, Richland Twp.
James Fardice, Orange Twp.
John Robinson, Rushville Twp.
Mary Collins, Posey Twp.
James Hunt, Jackson Twp.
Henry David, Jackson Twp.
George Ishaw, Center Twp.
John Wyatt, Anderson Twp.
George Brown, Richland Twp. (grave marked with government marker)
Robert Caldwell, Concord Graveyard, grave marked with government marker
Zephaniah Posey, Hopewell Graveyard, Richland Twp. (grave has government marker)
James Bromlee) Flatrock
John Lewis) Cemetery
Patrick Logan)
David Peters, Goddard's Graveyard
David Fleener, Hannegan Graveyard
Thomas Cassady, Lower (Kelly) graveyard

WAR OF 1812

The War of 1812 is probably the least centrally documented as to military service of all wars with a foreign power; probably because so much of it was fought in the west as a frontier and Indian war. Service records or references to service are even now frequently uncovered.

There are 30 known veterans of 1812 buried in Rush County, including two referred to as Colonel: Col. Gideon Minor and Col. Joseph Nicholas.

MEXICAN WAR

The Mexican War is not very well documented as to military service. However, records show that at least 5 veterans are buried in Rush County.

CIVIL WAR

Answering President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers, Company E of the 16th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment consisted of 93 enlistees with Paul J. Beachbard of Rushville, Captain, and John S. Grove and Silas D. Byram, Lieutenants. P. A. Hackleman was commissioned Colonel of the Regiment and Joel Wolfe, Major. Brigadier General Hackleman died from wounds received at Battle of Corinth, Mississippi, October 3, 1862, and Lt. Col. Joel Wolfe was killed at the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky on August 30, 1862.

A son of Lt. Col. Joel Wolfe, Col. Edward H. Wolfe, volunteered for service and was Colonel of the 52 regt., I.V.I., and was a Brevet Brigadier General.

Rush County furnished for the war and the Union 2,385 soldiers. Of course, some probably were re-enlistees. 178 men were lost in the field, and total deaths during and growing out of service were probably four hundred. The population of Rush County, Indiana, in 1860 was 16,193. The figure of 2,385 represents almost 15% of the population of Rush County and almost 75% of those eligible for military service in the Civil War. The only county surpassing Rush County's percentage of those eligible was Delaware County with less than 1% more than Rush County.

George W. Bliss claimed to have been the youngest Civil War veteran from Rush County. He was born July 12, 1851, and enlisted May 6, 1864, in Co. A, 134 Regt., as a drummer boy.

George Martin, Corporal, Co. I, 51 I.V.I., died in Anderson Twp., Rush County, on February 14, 1902, buried in Pleasant Run Cemetery in Noble Township. He was one of 10 brothers who served. The oldest and youngest were killed.

Rush County was represented in all of the major engagements. Indiana soldiers fought in 308 separate conflicts in 17 states.

The Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children' Home in Rush County was originally "Soldiers' Home and Rest" opened August 10, 1865.

Company E of the 123rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry consisted of mainly Rush County men. The 123rd Regiment, IVI, was recruited during the winter of 1863-1864, from the Fourth and Seven Congressional Districts, rendezvoused at Greensburg, Indiana and was mustered into service on the 9th day of March, 1864 with John C. McQuiston as Colonel. On March 18 the regiment left for Nashville, Tennessee, and upon arrival there was assigned to the Second Brigade, First Division, Twenty-Third Army Corps. Little or no training, except close order drill, was given.

By occupation there were 81 farmers, eight carpenters, two printers and one each of the following: barkeeper, blacksmith, brick layer, carder, clerk, harness maker, plasterer, school teacher and stone mason. You can see the importance of agriculture in our economy at this time.

One man, John W. Price, died at home in Rush County on January 26, 1864, age eighteen, and this is all the record concerning him.

Seventy were born in Indiana, including John W. Price, fifty-six of them in Rush County, ten in Ohio, seven in Kentucky, two in Virginia, one in each of the following states: Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, three in Germany, one in England, and one in Ireland.

At enlistment, county or residence was: Rush, eighty-three, Franklin, nine, Shelby, four, Decatur, two, Ripley, two.

There were seventy-two single and twenty-seven married. John W. Price status unknown.

The oldest were six of forty-four years and the youngest were forty-four of eighteen years. Later records show some over 44 and some under 18. There were three six footers, the tallest being 6'1", and three were 5'1" tall.

August Heinz was buried in a Catholic Cemetery. Possibly one or both of the other natives of Germany and James Murphy, born in Ireland, were Catholics. It must be remembered that this Company was backwoods and probably many had never seen a Priest until military service.

The RUSHVILLE JACKSONIAN Wednesday, June 17, 1863, reported that Elbert S. Jarrett, Deputy Enroller for Walker Township, accompanied by Deputy Provost Marshall John S. Stevens, Richard M. Craycraft, William Wilson and Mr. Mattingly were at the widow Hilligoss' about noon on June 10. She said that her boys were not at home, that they had left that morning. She refused to give their names and ages. Shortly afterwards, Stevens and Craycraft were lying on the ground, both fatally wounded.

In another article it was stated that James V., Sylvester and Isaac Hilligoss had been arrested and turned over to the civil authorities in Indianapolis on suspicion of having done the shooting. They were later released. The article also critized the enrolling officer for not doing the job himself and for sending two men of about 20 years of age to do the job.

WAKE UP!
Last Chance
to
VOLUNTEER

Remember June 5th, 1917

You have one more chance to volunteer. After June 5th if you are between 21 and 31 YOU CANNOT BE A VOLUNTEER, UNLESS YOU JOIN NOW.

You will be drafted unless you join COMPANY "B" or some other organized unit.

You Are Not Exempt

Don't get it in your head that you are exempt simply because you work on a FARM, are MARRIED, are helping SUPPORT SOMEONE, or because you may think you are not ABLE BODIED. That is not the draft law. THE COUNTRY NEEDS MEN, MUST HAVE MEN, AND NO ONE WILL ESCAPE

YOU MUST DO YOUR PART — WHY NOT VOLUNTEER?

Enlist Now in Company "B"

A medical examiner will be in Rushville, Indiana, all day Monday, June 4th, 1917. Come in at once, sign up, be examined and sworn in before June 5th.

See or communicate with Officers of Company "B" Rushville, Indiana.

Don't Be a Conscript

Enlistment poster circulated in World War I in Rush County

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

In the Spanish-American War Rush County furnished 102 enlisted men in Co. H, 161st Regt., and Captain James M. Gwinn, 1st Lieutenants John F. Joyce, Harry B. Patton and George H. Caldwell. It furnished 34 men for Philippine and hospital service. There were probably others in other units.

WORLD WAR I

Co. B, Fourth Regiment, Indiana National Guard, was organized at Rushville and left for Camp Shelby, Mississippi on August 19, 1917, to become U. S. Troops, and a part of the 42nd or Rainbow Division. John H. Kiplinger was Captain.

Dr. Lowell M. Green of Rushville organized a hospital unit which became a part of the 139th Field Artillery. At least 800 men and women from Rush County served in W.W. I. 18 are known to have died in service from all causes.

WORLD WAR II

W. W. II records show at least 1,969 men and women and 54 Gold Stars from Rush County.

Sergeant Joe Goodson of Rushville commanded the first tank that crossed the Remagen Bridge over the Rhine River.

Donald W. Brann of Rushville was a 1st Lieutenant in W.W. I, and was General Mark Clark's Chief of Staff in the Mediterranean Theater in W.W. II. He fell to his death on a mountainside while hunting in Austria after W.W. II ended.

To me there has always been an aura of romance surrounding our country's wars except the one that I took part in. As I served, my part did not seem important and certainly not glamorous. However, after it is over, there now seems a bit of romance about the duty performed by a small town midwesterner. I remember that many were not sure of our strength until the Germans fled from Paris. We performed our day-to-day duties, hoped the war would end and wished to go home. Only when I read accounts of the Invasion of Europe do I realize that I played a part in one of the World's greatest epics. My country had a part to play and I am proud that I was able to answer its call and thankful that it was my destiny to return home.

It is regretted that more information could not be given concerning W.W. II, and events following. The writer has spent countless hours studying local sources of History concerning early wars and the men who served, and if time permits, will continue to the present day.

The figures and estimates given herein are subject to change because as sources are checked other names and service records are found.

THE RUSH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Priscilla Offutt Winkler

The Rush County Historical Society was organized on June 15, 1922, at a meeting in the assembly room of the Rush County Court House. Miles S. Cox was elected the first President, Mary A. Sleeth, secretary, and A. L. Gary, treasurer.

At a meeting held Jan. 31, 1931, it was reported by Mr. A. L. Gary that the county commissioners had given the Library Room in the Court House for the use of the Society. On February 7, 1931, O. M. Siler, president, appointed a committee to move the relics from the second floor and place them on the first floor in the Library Room.

On October 14, 1940, at a meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Waggener in Rushville, Mr. Clark Offutt presented his deed to the John K. Gowdy home at 619 N. Perkins Street in Rushville to the Society. Mr. Offutt gave the home in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John K. Gowdy and their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mansfield. Mr. Gowdy began his political career as sheriff of Rush County in 1890 serving two terms until 1875. He was elected Auditor of the county from 1883 until 1891. He served as chairman of the Indiana Republican State Comm. from 1891 until 1897.

Mr. Gowdy was appointed by President McKinley Consul-General to Paris, France, March 20, 1897. He was made Officer of the Legion of Honor by the French government. His term of office covered the period of the Spanish-American war, the meeting in Paris of the commission which arranged the terms of peace between Spain and the United States, the Exposition of 1900, and the transfer of the Panama Canal property to the United States. He gave special assistance in locating the body of John Paul Jones, whose remains were found in a Paris cemetery, disinterred, returned to America under naval escort, and buried at Annapolis. Mr. Gowdy retired in October of 1905 and returned to his home in Rushville.

Mr. Mansfield served as Consul-General to Zanzibar, Chile, Switzerland, Vancouver, and Stockholm, Sweden.

Mrs. Vernon Marsters served as president of the society from 1940 until 1954. She spent many hours working at the museum with the many exhibits. Mr. Henry Stinger of Carthage served as the next President. Mr. Stinger was curator of the State Museum.

Countless relics of a long gone era in Rush County have been added to the museum through the years. Miss Sarah Newby of Carthage left many of her household goods to the museum. Miss Newby, daughter of Thomas Newby, one of the earliest settlers in the Quaker Community, added coverlets, dishes, and many interesting pieces of furniture to the museum collection.

Also of special note is the Mary A. Sleeth room, added to the museum in 1961. Many lovely items from her home were placed in the room and the dining room in the museum is complete with the addition of her beautiful old furniture and lovely blue dishes.

On exhibit in the museum are such interesting things as the equipment used to survey Rush County by Rod Spencer and a small scale model of the Kennedy Bridges used by the Kennedy's to sell their bridges to the county commissioners. In the barn are a wide array of old farm tools including broadaxes, grain cradles, buhrs and a wheat drill invented by James Harcourt in Milroy in 1866. Also in the barn is a prairie schooner that brought two loads of immigrants from North Carolina in the 1820's, and Rushville's first fire engine.

The Officers for 1972, the 50th anniversary of the Rush County Historical Society, include: John Hughes, president; Joe Pike, vice-president; Clarence Arnold, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. Norman Winkler, secretary; and Mrs. Joe Pike, treasurer.

The museum is one of the best in the State of Indiana. Through the tireless efforts of such people as A. L. Gary, Albert Rigsbee, president at the time the Gowdy house was presented to the society, and Donald Alexander, Rush County has a museum which reflects life in Rush County as it has progressed through the last 150 years.

Rush County Museum, the former home of Mr. and Mrs. John K. Gowdy

HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE

Rushville, Indiana 46173

Sherman L. Wright, postmaster

The first post office in Rush County, as verified from the Postmaster General's office, was at the store and home of John Arnold in Union Township. No regular delivery was possible in those early days of 1820 and 1821. Travelers were entrusted with letters for those in the general direction they were going and, once arrived at the post office, the letters were held there till someone came in from that family. Addresses were sometimes very vague. A letter addressed to John Arnold, Mahoning Valley, U.S.A., was delivered, safely. This first post office has been restored from the original logs and stands in its original site at Arnold's Home.

The first post office in Rushville was established in 1822 with Charles H. Veeder being the first Postmaster. The mail was carried in saddle-bags on horseback over the trail leading from Connersville to Indianapolis. Post offices established in the early history of the county were at Richland, Milroy, Raleigh, Gings, Mays, Carthage, New Salem, Moscow, Homer, Manilla, Arlington, Occident, Sexton, Henderson and Gowdy. Of these only Falmouth, Mays, Carthage, Arlington, Homer, Manilla, Milroy and Rushville remain, since the others are now serviced by rural delivery.

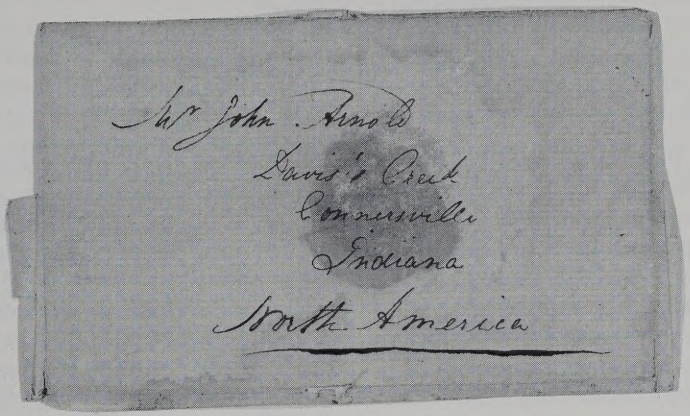
A stage line from Indianapolis to Cincinnati, through Rushville, was established in 1831, which materially added to the mail service for this area. The trip one way from Indianapolis to Cincinnati required two days and two nights, the fare for a passenger being $5.50. It was said that the journey on the stage was very unpleasant, the roads being very rough, and the passengers were often required to lend assistance in pushing the stage coaches through the mud.

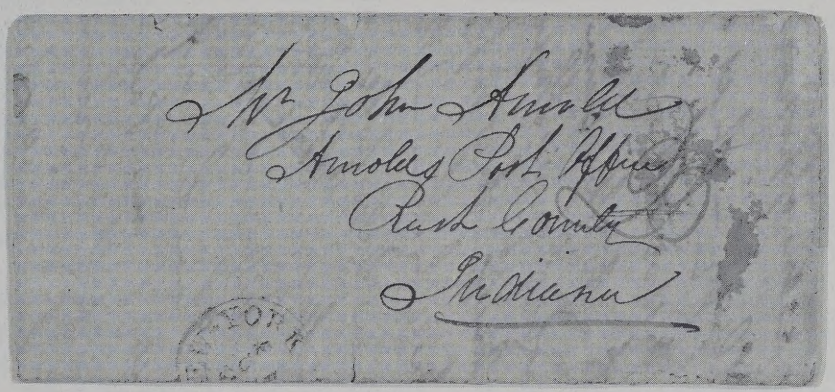
The first railroad to Rushville appeared on September 10, 1850, a line from Shelbyville to Rushville. Other railroads to follow included the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Indianapolis (1867), the Vernon, Greensburg & Rushville (1881), the New Castle & Rushville (1882), the Anderson & Rushville (1887), and the Indianapolis & Cincinnati Traction Company, an electric line (1903). Over these lines a maximum number of 24 trains carrying mail operated in and through Rushville during a 24-hour period. From the early 1920's the number of passenger trains declined gradually until, on January 17, 1951, the last train was removed from the schedules. At present time no trains carrying mail operate through Rushville.

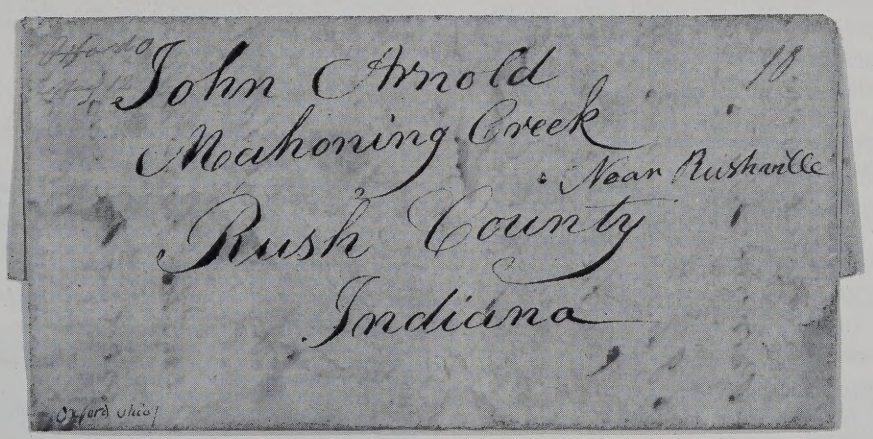
Little is known of the location of the post office prior to 1868, when Mrs. Sarah Hackleman became postmaster. It was then in a small building on the northwest corner of the yard now occupied by the Western Auto store on Main street, which was the Hackleman homestead. In 1887 it was moved to the Farmers Trust Company building; in 1898 to the Havens building on Second street, now occupied by Hittles; in 1911 to the Masonic building on Main street. This building was destroyed by fire on July 20, 1913 and the office was located in a room now a part of the Taff Furniture Store. In 1914 the new Masonic building was completed and it was again occupied by the post office. In 1925 it was moved to the Durbin hotel building, and on December 1, 1930, to the new Federal building now occupied.

The Rushville post office became second-class in 1900 and the personnel were included under the civil service law. In 1944 the office rose to first-class. Rural free delivery was established on July 5, 1890, and city "free" delivery on October 1, 1900. At one time there were 32 rural routes operating in Rush County, and at the present there are 12.

The list of Rushville postmasters and the dates they took office follows: Charles H. Veeder, October 9, 1822, when the local office was established; Reu Pugh, February 27, 1829; Marinus Willett, May 25, 1829; Turner A. Knox, December 22, 1836; Matthew Smith, February 16, 1841; Robert A. Matthews, June 11, 1841; Joseph Hamilton, October 15, 1842; Matthew Smith, August 26, 1846; John W. Barber, October 11, 1849; Jesse Smith, April 16, 1850; Ryland Sherman, May 22, 1851; John S. Campbell, April 26, 1853; Robert J. Price, November 5, 1859; Matthew Smith, September 1, 1860; Edward H. Wolfe, April 6, 1861; J. R. Carmichael, October 14, 1861; Henry Dixon, January 13, 1863; John Dixon, May 30, 1865; Mrs. Sarah Hackleman, March 23, 1868; Thomas Ochiltree, June 13, 1887; Robert F. Bebout, April 23, 1889; Will S. Meredith, February 5, 1894; Adam V. Spivey, February 16, 1898; Homer Havens, July 18, 1901; Benjamin L. McFarlan, January 18, 1906; Charles A. Frazee, January 12, 1909; Geston P. Hunt, June 6, 1913; Alfonso L. Riggs, August 17, 1921; Clen Miller, April 15, 1930; Kate Wallace (Acting), April 24, 1934; Will Newbold, May 15, 1935; George Bowling (Acting), December 7, 1944; Sherman L. Wright, December 1, 1948.







A reproduction of three old letters. They were all received at Arnold's post office. The top one was from Shalfleet, England, and was mailed in 1821. The darkened spot in the middle is from the sealing wax which held it shut on the other side.

The second is from New York and was written September 1, 1829. It is written completely through and then given a quarter turn and written through again, in the body of the letter. Since postage was by sheets of paper, this gave twice the amount of writing for one sheet.

The third was written home from college at Oxford, Ohio, by the boy who was to become Dr. John Arnold and is dated 1831.

None of the letters have envelopes. They are written, folded, sealed with sealing wax and the address written on the back of the folded sheets.

HISTORY OF FUNERAL DIRECTING

Frank Wyatt Moore

While, from the beginning, man has cared for the dead, it has only been within the past 150 years that an independent occupational group has devoted its endeavors to this end. For many years even this group had a dual role. In the period from 1822 through the Civil War, people who were primarily cabinet makers were also called upon to make a box suitable for the burial of human remains. In many localities (Rush County included) the practice continued even far beyond this period. It was not until near the end of the century that resistance to chemical preservatives began to die. We then saw the rise and decline of the medical specialist as embalmer and the development of a commercial enterprise in the compounding and distribution of embalming fluids, with the attendant rise of the "embalming school."

In passing from the immediate box burial, to the "Ice Coffin" which could preserve, for a short period, the remains, to the beginning of preservative embalming we have brought Rush County to a period beginning around 1880. The horse-drawn hearse which had replaced the flat bed wagon around 1850 was in use until 1913, and in many cases even beyond that because of the public's refusal to accept faster mode of transportation of the motor hearse.

In 1880 the undertaker was not licensed either to practice or to embalm; another fifteen years were to elapse before states began to pass licensing regulations. (Indiana 1899) However, due to the establishment of Bureaus or Departments of Vital Statistics, it became incumbent upon the undertaker to meet certain legal requirements before arranging for the burial or cremation of the human dead.

Services in the home or the church were invariably long, and delivered in a mixed context of religious awe, hope, fear and gloom. During this time in history, the undertaker was an overseer, even to the extent of leaving the funeral procession to an assistant and going ahead to the cemetery to be sure all was ready there.

Long processions with families requiring 10 to 12 buggies or carriages were not uncommon.

In 1885 we find three firms in Rushville; Butler, Holden and Churchill, E. Woodard & Son, and George C. Wyatt & Company, all dealing in furniture and also providing the latest methods of embalming. In the last half of the 19th century such firms as W. L. Wilson; Souder and Brown; Butler, Holden and Churchill; E. Woodard & Son; and George C. Wyatt & Co., provided these services to the citizens of Rushville.

All care was provided at home. Most funerals were held in the home and burial, in many cases, was in family cemeteries, although there were major cemeteries at this time. East Hill Cemetery was founded in 1859. These firms maintained generally three hearses; a black one for men, a gray one for women and a white one for children. All had matching teams and were kept in the local livery. Buggies were furnished, too, in many cases.

Funeral homes as we know them today came into being, generally, in the late 1920's in Rush County. Fred Caldwell was in the furniture and funeral business from the early 1900's. He sold the furniture business in 1929, but continued on in funeral service on North Morgan Street into the late 1930's. Sherman L. Wright owned and operated a funeral home from 1931 to 1943.

George L. Todd owned a furniture store and funeral service beginning in 1921. In 1923 he had a funeral home at Fifth and Jackson which he moved to North Perkins Street in 1935. Following his death in 1947, his son George P. Todd opened a funeral home at Eighth and Main in 1948, which is known as the Todd Funeral Home. Presently he has two sons licensed in the firm with him, John and William.

In 1885, George C. Wyatt, who had been associated with his father, James, in the cabinet and undertaking business in Milroy, moved to Rushville and opened George C. Wyatt & Company Furniture and Undertaking. He was joined by a son, Warder H., in 1900 and another son, Harry A., in 1910. After being in two locations in the 200 block of Main Street, they purchased three buildings in the 300 block and made one

Reproduced advertisement from the Rushville Republican, Thursday, December 2, 1880.

large modern store—still for the two businesses—in 1916. In 1938 they purchased the Case property and moved their funeral service to its present location. A grandson of the founder, Frank W. Moore, joined the firm in 1932 and was licensed in 1938. At the death of Warder in 1947 and Harry's semi-retirement in 1954, he acquired their interests and operated as the Wyatt Moore Memorial. In 1969 a portion was sold to Gary Milam and the firm is presently known as Wyatt-Moore-Milam.

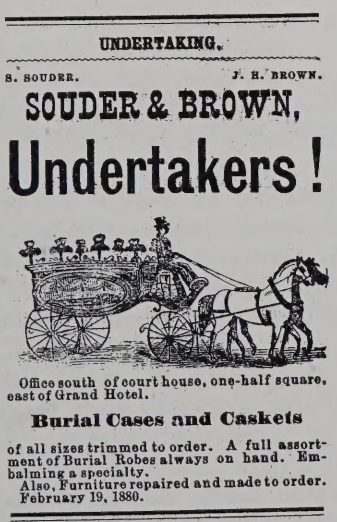
In 1931 Will Moster moved to Rushville from Laurel and opened a funeral home, purchasing the Capp property on Main Street which is now known as the Moster Funeral Home. In 1938 two sons, Robert and William, joined the firm and it became Moster & Sons Mortuary. In 1958 another son, Richard, became affiliated. Shortly after the death of Robert in 1969, Thomas, a grandson of the founder, became a member of the firm. Will Moster died in 1960, and the principals of the firm are the surviving two sons and the grandson. They operate another home in Laurel.

Manilla had a funeral home from 1917 to 1964 which was originally owned by D. Ezra Carmony. When he moved to Shelbyville, in 1948, he continued to operate the Manilla Branch, until his death in 1961. His son, Warren, who presently operates the Carmony Funeral Home in Shelbyville, continued the Manilla operation untill 1964.

Milroy has had several people in funeral service. S. O. Norris was followed by E. O. Anderson, who, in turn, was followed by Virgil Murphy in 1925. He operated the Murphy Funeral Home until 1966 when he sold out to the present owner Richard Burns, who operates the Murphy-Burns Funeral Home today. All the above were in one succession. James S. Wyatt was in the cabinet and undertaking business in the 1870's and 1880's. He was joined by his son, George C. Wyatt, in 1882, who stayed until he moved to Rushville in 1885. In 1921 George C. Wyatt opened a furniture and funeral business in Milroy, taking Albert Sweet in with him in this venture. This was terminated in 1925, when Mr. Sweet opened and operated his funeral home until in the 1930's.

Carthage finds many names associated with cabinet making, hardware, furniture and undertaking. This documentation will mention individual names and dates, rather than firm names. In the 1830's—Richard W. Johnson and David Coble. In the period from 1857 to 1869—Coble and Cox, William S. Johnson, and Raymond Johnson. In the 1880's—Benjamin Nixon & Son, and William A. Young. In the early 1900's are the names of Cary Hand, Omer Barnard, A. Shesler, E. D. Lewis, Clyde Lewis and J. S. Shaw. In 1925 the names of L. V. Hauk (who went to Morristown), John Rhour and W. O. Moore in 1929. From 1929 to 1937 there was Davis P. Dunn; from 1937 to 1957, U. B. Thompson; and presently Frank Hampton, operating the Hampton Mortuary.

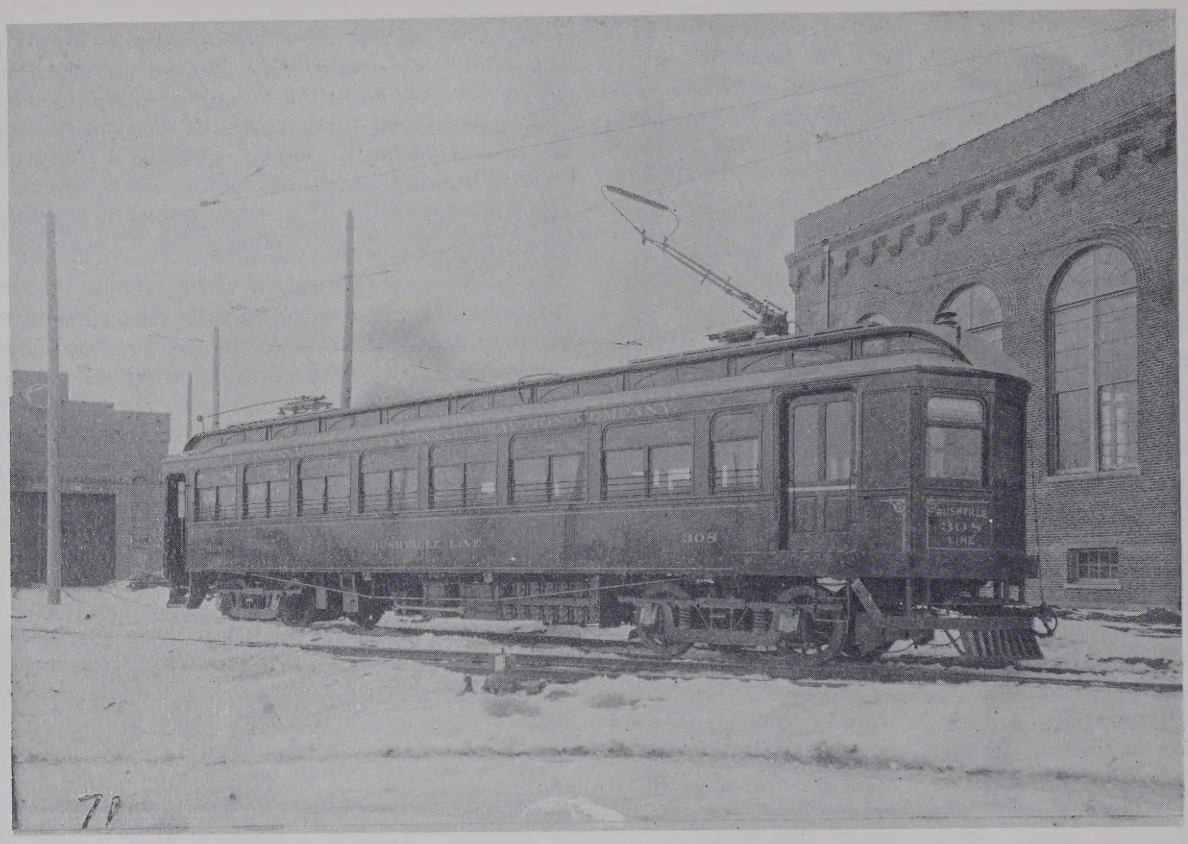
The sesquicentennial period covers great change, beyond comprehension, and, unfortunately, without documentation in many areas. A neglected area is that covering the progression from cabinet maker to undertaker to funeral director to the present funeral service licensee. As generations pass and memories dim, much of the lore concerning this has been lost. The steady progression came slowly, with long hours, hardships experienced and, in some cases, physical suffering. It is too bad it has never been recorded in Rush County.


UNDERTAKING.
S. SOUDER. J. H. BROWN.
SOUDER & BROWN,
Undertakers!
Office south of court house, one-half square, east of Grand Hotel.
Burial Cases and Caskets
of all sizes trimmed to order. A full assortment of Burial Robes always on hand. Embalming a specialty.
Also, Furniture repaired and made to order.
February 19, 1880.

Reproduced advertisement from the Rushville Republican, Thursday, December 2, 1880.

MARBLE WORKS.
John B. Schrichte.
PREMIUM
MARBLE WORKS
SHOP on Main Street, opposite Masonic Hall, Rushville, Indiana.
Monuments
AND
Tomb Stones
and all description
MARBLE WORK
Done in the BEST STYLE and on reasonable terms. Call and see our work. Particular attention paid to cutting and dressing lime-stone for building purposes.

Reproduced advertisement from the Rushville Republican, Thursday, December 2, 1880.



A "Red Line" car pulls out of the car barns at Rushville.

THE OLD I & C

Helen Hinchman Osting

At the turn of the century, thoughts of traction lines were everywhere. In 1898 the CH & D railroad organized the CH & D Traction Company to run from Indianapolis to Rushville. In 1900 the Rushville to Brookville electric railway was promoted with $50,000 capital stock. (Of the 500 shares, 310 were sold in Rushville.) This latter promotion was abandoned in favor of the Indianapolis idea, with the name changed to the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Traction Company. Charles L. Henry was president.

In 1901 the Rushville city council granted a right of way through Rushville and in June, 1903, after keen competition with Connersville, Rushville was chosen as the location of the power plant and car barns when a site was guaranteed the company for $5,000. The power plant would also provide power for the Indianapolis to Shelbyville branch of the I and C. This branch, formerly known as Indianapolis & Southeastern, was bought late in 1903 by the I & C.

It was decided to start laying tracks from Rushville. Work was begun on the road bed and also on the power plant.

In May, 1904, the three-story house belonging to Capt. J. H. Mauzy, located on the northeast corner of Morgan and Third streets (where the Rushville Library now stands), was purchased to use as offices at a cost of $10,000. The executive branch of the company remained in Indianapolis, but all other offices were located in Rushville. When the line began operating regularly, the southwest room on the lower floor was used as a ladies waiting room, the middle, or entry, became a ticket office and the southeast front room became the men's waiting room. Express was loaded out through the door on the south side of this room, also. Back rooms held freight, supplies, etc. The second floor held offices and the third floor was used for storage.

Good progress was made in road construction, and on July 21, 1904, Mayor J. M. Stevens drove the first spike. Work proceeded in one square of Rushville at a time, and the street was returned to good condition before another section was torn up.

Ties were mostly first class white or burr oak 6" x 6" x 8' and set 3280 to the mile. Bridge ties were long leaf yellow pine. Rails were 60 feet long and weighed 1400 lb. each. These had to be bent for curves, and it took 16 men to work the rail-bending machine. Curves couldn't be too sharp because the "Red Line" cars, so-called because of their dark red color, used the largest cars made.

On October 28, 1904, the line was completed and the stockholders made an inspection trip on a construction car. By January 2, 1905, the first two passenger cars had been delivered and #30 made its first trip from the car barns to Dagler's farm at the west edge of Rushville. The following day, Sunday, trips were made every two hours, carrying excited passengers on trial trips. Within two weeks the second car was functioning and the two cars made regular trips to Morristown every two hours.

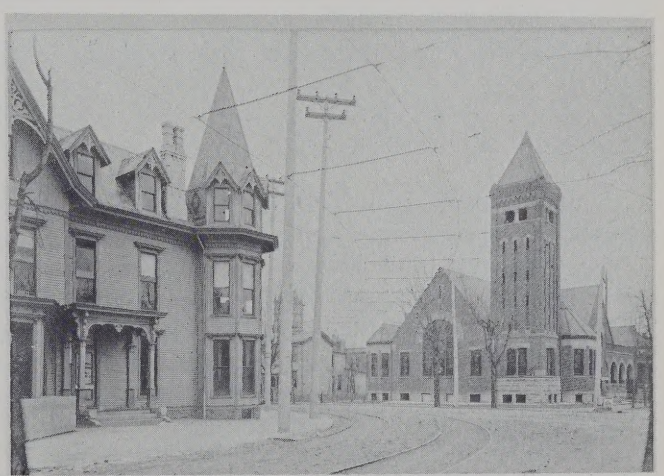
By February 20, 1905, runs were being made every two hours to the Traction Terminal at Illinois and Market Streets in Indianapolis. However, passengers had to transfer at the junction with the Shelbyville division to one of the smaller cars used on the Shelbyville division because the larger Rushville cars could not go under a railroad viaduct. This continued until June 30. During this period of four months, the viaduct had been raised to a clearance of eighteen feet and thereafter the bigger "Red Line" cars went directly into the Traction Terminal on a regular 2 hour schedule.

The permanent dispatcher's office and switchman's tower was completed by June 17, 1905. This was a 12 x 12 x 18 ft., two story building located at the junction of the Rushville and Shelbyville divisions. The lower room was a waiting room for local passengers and for those wanting to transfer from one division to the other. The top floor was the "business" area. Cars on both divisions had telephones and were able to connect with the dispatcher's office by using boxes located on poles about every half mile along the right of way. In case of difficulty, or needed information, the matter could be reported in a very few minutes anywhere along the line.

Twenty-nine small shelters, (commonly called dog houses), were erected at stops along the lines. These were open on the side facing the track and provided a narrow seat across the back. Passengers could wait inside these during inclement weather until they heard the whistle of an approaching car, step out and flag or signal, and the interurban would stop for them. Fare was paid the conductor who punched a "trip ticket" for his record. This showed stop number, destination and fare. At all the small towns a larger building was provided. In this was space for express, a ticket office with a station agent, and a waiting room which was heated in winter.

Fare was roughly 1½¢ a mile. For regular users, tickets were sold in commutation books of 100 tickets at a little reduction. Student commutation books were about half price, were non-transferable, and were good only on school days. These were used primarily by high school pupils whose local school did not have the required four years of high school. These books were purchased only from regular agents and were good only between stations or stops indicated on the front.

On January 2, 1906, a special car ran to Rushville for an inspection trip. Returning to Indianapolis, the thirty-nine miles from Rushville city limits to the junction with the Shelbyville line at the Belt railroad area was made in 39 minutes at an even speed of a mile a minute the entire way. Later, at an area near Morristown, a record run was made of a mile in 52 seconds. A banquet was given in Indianapolis following this inspection trip with Charles L. Henry, president of the I & C, as toastmaster. One speaker noted this was nine years to the day after the first interurban ran in Indiana from Anderson to Alexandria, also under the direction of C. L. Henry. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Cambern and Mr. and Mrs. Will Frazee of Rushville were among the ones making this trip.



The curve at Third and Morgan, where the library now stands. The home of Capt. J. H. Mauzy, on the left, had been purchased as offices for the I & C.

The inside of a "Red Line" interurban car.

The inside of a special executives' car.

Special services were provided. Theatre-goers could obtain seats they desired by consulting a seating chart of the preferred theatre and paying the seat price to the station agent. This information was called to the Indianapolis agent who in turn called the theatre to hold the seats. The purchaser picked up an envelope containing numbered slips from the Indianapolis agent, presented it at the theatre box office and received the necessary tickets. Thus people were assured the kind of seats they wanted would be available when they reached the theatre. Sometimes a "Matinee Special" ran for women only, arriving in Indianapolis in time for a matinee and leaving shortly afterward.

Sunday excursion tickets, round trip to Indianapolis from Rushville, were 85¢ each during June, July, August and September of 1906. About 1924 or 1925 Sunday special round trips were $1.

About 1920-1925, regular fare from Indianapolis to Rushville was $1.19, to Glenwood $1.43, to Connersville $1.72; Indianapolis to Shelbyville $.81 and Indianapolis to Greensburg $1.41. These were one-way fares.

In 1906, Indiana ranked fifth in the nation, with 65 interurban lines. Pennsylvania had 117, followed by Ohio, New York and Massachusetts. That year the I & C paid Rush County $2000 in taxes. (Wonder what they would be today on the same evaluation?) May taxes were $3,078.38.

Freight service, with two cars each way each day, began in June, 1906. Later, stock cars were added and hogs or cattle were shipped to the Indianapolis stockyards. Loading pens for these were established at the siding areas where one of the regular cars was sidetracked when two cars were meeting on their usual schedule. Stock cars did not follow the same schedule as express freight. Hogs or cattle were driven to these areas on foot. Occasionally hogs were transported in box-bed wagons.

As soon as the Rushville line to Indianapolis was completed, work was begun on the extension to Connersville and from Shelbyville to Greensburg. Also a power line was built from Rushville to Shelbyville, providing power for the Greensburg to Indianapolis area and eliminating a smaller power plant in Shelbyville.

The power plant in Rushville and the single phase alternating current system was the first of its kind in use on an electric line anywhere in the world. It provided speed, power, and needed no rotary transformers at substations. Westinghouse supervised, with subcontractors. Engineering students from Purdue came to study it for several days. Even engineers from England were brought by Westinghouse at different times to see how it functioned.

It had at least eight boilers, two condensers, six 1200 HP steam engine turbines and two dynamos with wheels that were 20 feet across and weighed 11 tons each. A dynamo complete weighed 29 ton. The furnace, fired by coal, had a treadmill feed that recycled the ashes so they were re-used and very little ash was left. These steam turbines provided the current for both divisions, plus that used later for lights for towns along the lines, such as Glenwood, Arlington, Morristown, New Palestine, Reedville, Gwynneville, Prescott, London, Acton, Waldron, etc., and at one time all of Shelbyville. Individual bills were sent to the agents at these points and customers paid their bills at the station. Their report sheets and unpaid bills were then returned to the Rushville office with the money collected.

Some statistics are interesting. It took 500,000 bricks, obtained from Fred Clevenger of Rushville and a Marion, Indiana company, (outside brick) at a cost of $38,000 to build the car barns which are 105' x 210'.

It took a 16 ton crane to move the heavy machinery. The power house is 113' x 128', was 60 feet high at highest point. The main floor is 9'6" above ground level to allow for coal pits, etc.

The steel smoke stack was 190' high and sat on a base 24 feet square at the bottom, 20 feet square at the top and 24 feet deep. This stack, which was obtained from Racine, Wisconsin, was 17' in diameter at the bottom and 12 feet at the top. It was made of ¾ inch curved steel plates which alone weighed 50 tons. This steel was lined with firebrick which had to be replaced from time to time.

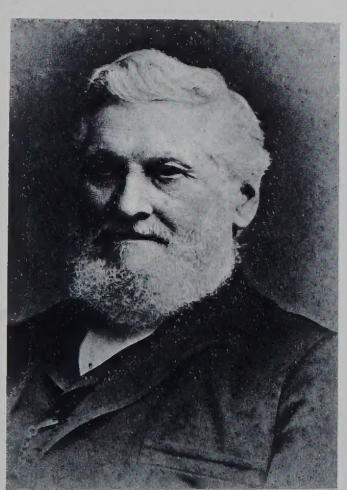
For ballast on the tracks, gravel was taken from a pit at Morristown at the rate of 40 carloads a day.

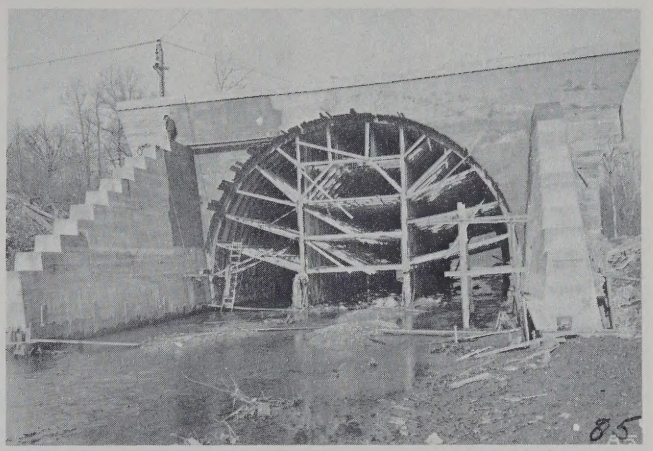
It cost $600 for the right-of-way through the Poor Farm and $3,500 was paid to the Fair Association for right-of-way, plus rebuilding the racetrack and having it ready for the next fair.

The biggest jobs were building the Williams Creek fill and cutting the Tenth Street hill at the west edge of Connersville. In January, 1906, a steam digger was unloaded at Glenwood to work toward Connersville. Spur lines handled the dirt, which sometimes had to be dynamited in winter.

The Williams Creek arch was the largest and most expensive ever built in Indiana at that time. 100 men and teams had worked from September 1 till Christmas. The arch required about 5,000 cubic yards of concrete at a cost of $45,000. It was a solid mass of masonry 200 feet long and 13 feet wide, built for double tracks and had a 30 foot fill on top if it. The opening is 97 feet wide with a 50 foot inside measurement. 225 carloads of stone quarried in Fayette County and 35 carloads of cement were used in this arch alone. The other 13 bridges and culverts used 10,000 barrels of cement and 400 carloads of stone.

Laborers were local men and teams, plus Italians, Hungarians and Negro laborers. Men and teams received $3.50 a day. At one time Italian laborers were receiving $1.30 a day, but struck for $1.50. The line was finally completed to Connersville.





The Williams Creek arch with timbering still in place.

The traction lines were highly successful in their time and performed a greatly needed function, that of fast and efficient transportation. However, they fell victim to progress and to their enemy, the motor car. As autos became more numerous, business fell away from the lines. One by one they failed all over the state.

On May 5, 1927, the I & C went into receivership, but there was hope for its revival when in April, 1928, it was sold to L. E. Eastman. Nothing could rescue it, however, and on January 1, 1932, operation was permanently discontinued. The tracks which had been laid with so much labor and such high hopes were all removed by April 20, 1932. It was the end of an era and the end of the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Traction Company. Not much remains to remind us of it except the two "cut-away" corners at the Library and at Seventh and Morgan which were made wide to allow the cars to make their turns there.

DR. JOHN ARNOLD, HISTORIAN

No historical record of Rush County would be complete without a tribute to Dr. Arnold. As a matter of fact, any historical record would be very incomplete without Dr. Arnold, since his writings are used as a basis for much of the early day history. As contributing author to the historical atlas of 1879 and the 1888 history of Rush County, author of a historical sketch for the Presbyterian "Historical Souvenir of 1895" and author of his own "Reminiscenes of an Old Settler," he has set down a vast store of facts and observations of the early days of our county.

His father, John Arnold, purchased land in Rush County on the first day the land office opened in 1820, and, in October of 1821, brought his family to Arnold's Home. Young John, six years old, watched and listened as he grew to manhood, became a physician and practiced in the county, and finally grew old and died here.

His keen eye and ability to write flowing lucid prose combined to make his writings as pertinent and interesting today as the day they were written.

1822 – Centennial – 1922

Special to Indianapolis News
Rushville, Indiana, June 10 (1922)

Rush County will celebrate its 100th birthday anniversary here Wednesday and Thursday, June 14 and 15. Like all birthday parties, there will be a cake. This one will weigh 500 pounds and will be made by A. W. Wilkinson, a baker. No one, however, has undertaken the contract to supply the candles. The cake will be cut and served to the Home Coming day crowd Thursday.

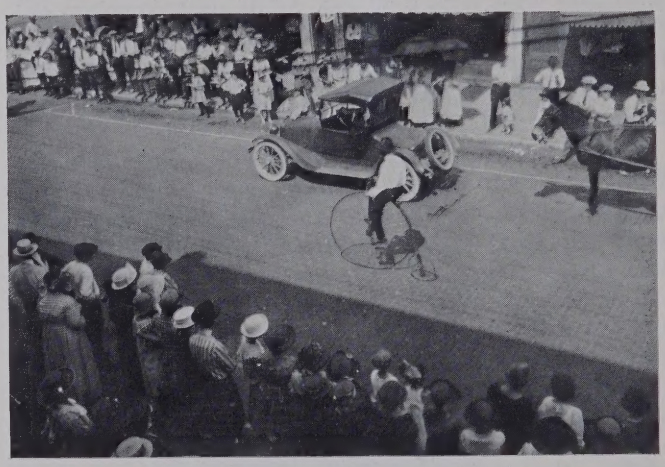
A memorial tablet to the revoluntionary soldiers of Rush County, to be placed in the lower corridor of the courthouse, will be unveiled Wednesday afternoon by the Rushville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

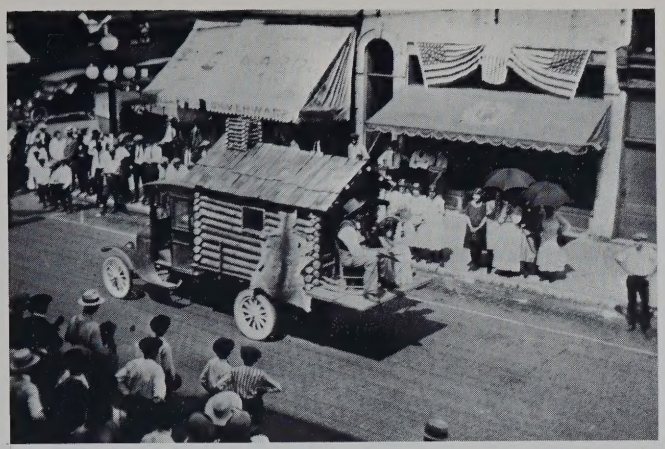
Prizes in a Rush County history essay contest open to school children will be awarded by W. E. Wagoner, county superintendent of schools. Frederick VanNuys, of Indianapolis, who was born and reared in Washington Township will speak. The Indianapolis News Newsboys Band will give a concert Wednesday evening.

Thursday will be Home Coming day. Reunions of former pupils of district schools which long ago disappeared will be held in the morning, and in the afternoon a parade, depicting the historical, industrial and fraternal life of the county will be held. In the evening a pageant of pioneer life will be presented at the coliseum. Every township will take part in the production. Music will be provided Home Coming day by the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Orphans' Home Band. Thousands of invitations have been sent to all parts of the United States to former residents of the county, urging them to attend the centennial celebration.

Among the most interesting figures at the centennial will be Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia, chairman of the board of directors of the Insurance Company of North America, who is the great grandson of Dr. Benjamin Rush, for whom Rush County was named, and Dr. Samuel A. Laughlin, of Aberdeen, Ohio, great grandson of Dr. William B. Laughlin, surveyor, physician and teacher, who is referred to as the father of Rush county.

Centennial Parade





North Carolina
1822

YOU CAN GET IT AT HAYDON'S
THE WINCHESTER STORE

THE
MAUZY
CO
1822 - 1972

The hotel as it looks today, with Mrs. Leo Durbin, the late Leo Durbin, Donald Durbin and David Durbin standing in front.

DURBIN HOTEL

"A Haven for Travelers for over a Century"

Mary Durbin Ball

Once again the staff of the Durbin dons colonial garb to celebrate an anniversary, the sesquicentennial. Every year at Thanksgiving, however, they recall the past by dressing in the costumes of our first settlers: the Indians, the colonial dames and the sharp-dressing, wise-cracking salesmen and horse dealers who were the first hotel guests. In 1956, the hotel celebrated its centennial. In 1856, a grand "levee" was held to celebrate the opening of the Carr House as the hotel was then named. Throughout all the years in between an effort has been made to preserve the decor, the atmosphere and the tradition of gracious hospitality.

The hotel as it looked approximately 75 years ago, when it was the Windsor Hotel. The picture shows an exterior and an interior scene.

The real estate on which the Durbin is built is part of the original plat of the town of Rushville, having first been in the possession of William B. Laughlin. In 1826, this lot, numbered thirteen (13) and three other lots were purchased by Peter H. Patterson for a total cost of fifty nine dollars ($59).

The lot was sold in 1831 to Harvey W. Carr who constructed the hotel. In 1855, Mr. Carr moved his family into the Carr House and the Grand Opening was held in 1856. It must have been one of the most gala events in Rushville. The hotel has operated continuously since that time under various managements and such names as: Capp House, Windsor Hotel, Lollis Hotel and the Durbin.

In its early days it stressed service for the traveler. Civil War days advertising mentioned "good stabling and friendly ostlers." In 1878, the first gas lamp ever lighted on the Rushville streets stood at the Capp Hotel which was run by Frazier and Joseph Johnson.

In 1899, William and Harrie Jones, proprietors of the Windsor Hotel, advertised that the hotel had been thoroughly overhauled. It boasted "an office, parlor, dining room, wash-room and three large sample rooms on the first floor, and fifty sleeping rooms. The house is lighted throughout with electricity and each room is heated by natural gas. The cuisine can not be excelled by any two dollar a day house in the State. The high praise by 'Knights of the Grip' has had much to do with its steadily increasing patronage."

In 1924, the hotel again underwent remodeling, this time at the hands of owner David Lollis. The restaurant, called the Lollis Hotel Cafe, was located in the northwest corner of the building and was operated by Silverton "Stick" Bebout. His menus advertised Special Tender Loin Steak, Hotel Lollis Style, 75¢, Plain Omelette, 25¢, Cold Roast Beef or Pork, 40¢.

In April, 1926, Leo and Mary Durbin leased the Lollis Hotel. They were a young couple with two small children who had lost their lease on a resort hotel in Celina, Ohio. They brought to the business a dream, determination, hard work and a faith in the future of Rushville.

In 1928, the Durbins bought the hotel and cafe building from Lollis. The restaurant had been moved to the site of what is now the Century room. The Post Office rented the entire west half of the building. However, on December 1, 1931, the Post Office moved into its new building which had been constructed during those Depression years, and the Durbins were faced with a sharp decrease in income. The room which extended from 2nd to 1st Street was remodeled, and the north portion served as an insurance office and barber shop for many years. One room housed ping pong and pool tables for the enjoyment of hotel guests. Rooms facing First Street were used by a creamery, a meat market and later by the hotel laundry. The Greyhound Bus station and the Western Union office were both located in the hotel with Mr. Durbin acting as agent. The middle rooms served various purposes, being sometimes rented out, sometimes used for storage, and always serving as a playground for the seven Durbin children reared in the hotel.

Wendell Willkie congratulates Mr. and Mrs. Leo Durbin on their fine handling of being the site of his national political campaign.

In 1940, the Durbins were given forty-eight hours notice that their hotel was to become the site of a national political campaign. The whole community cooperated and managd to revamp the hotel and to house and feed newsmen, politicians and celebrities from across the nation so successfully that they always looked back on their stay in Rushville with nostalgia. And at the end of the Wendell Willkie campaign for President the newsmen presented to the hotel a plaque inscribed "To Leo and Mary Durbin in appreciation of real hospitality. The Press–Willkie Campaign, September 12, 1940."

The hotel business picture was changing. With the advent of World War II, gasoline rationing drove salsmen and travelers from the highways. There was a shortage of help, supplies and equipment. What better experience for a family of boys and girls than to learn to make beds, repair equipment, paint walls, wash dishes and prepare and serve food to a demanding public. No wonder the Durbin has been referred to as a training school for hotel executives and that large hotel chains are benefiting from experience gained in Rushville.

Interstate highways came and Rushville ceased to be a crossroads. The hotel shifted its emphasis from providing lodging to serving food. As hotels failed all over the country, the Durbin expanded. Small rooms were combined to make larger, more comfortable ones with air conditioning and color television. Adjoining lots were purchased to make room for a parking lot and more dining space and a catering service. Mary Durbin's recipe file and menu plan with directions so exact that the newest employee can prepare any specialty of the house became the envy of other restauranteurs around the nation.

While the hotel had always been the location for political and business meetings, the Durbins have stressed making it a center for community activities. Many civic and county organizations make it their headquarters. The warm hospitality and timely decorations make it a delightful place to entertain friends, have showers, weddings, bridge club and family gatherings. The hotel is a good place in which to live and many persons have made a temporary home there. One long time guest is Mrs. Alice Cain, mother of Mary Durbin, who will celebrate her 99th birthday during Rushville's sesquicentennial celebration.

As each of the five Durbin sons returned home from their years of college and service, they added their knowledge and ideas to the hotel. Now with Donald and David at the helm and a third generation of Durbins in the training program, the Durbin Hotel continues to show faith in the future of Rushville.

CHEERING CROWD GREETS THE WILLKIES

The above picture shows the greeting extended to Mr. and Mrs. Willkie when they arrived in Rushville August 15 near midnight to take up their residence here, prior to the opening of his campaign. The picture was taken at the corner of Main and Second streets.

(Copied from Rushville Republican)

WILLKIE'S CAMPAIGN DAYS HERE IN 1940 RECALLED

Bill Hougland

Rushville's truly golden days of history existed during a few weeks in the late summer of 1940 when Wendell L. Willkie, the surprise Republican nominee for President, maintained his campaign headquarters here.

Elsewhere, things were in a terrible mess 32 years ago with the new World War II going badly for the shrinking free world. Hitler's Nazi hordes were gobbling up most of Europe and inflicting fearful bombings on courageous holdout Great Britain.

Throughout the United States, young men were preparing to register for military service under the nation's first peacetime conscription. Hundreds of Rush County men were called to the colors as a result of this draft, the first drawing of which was held October 29.

But, for a few weeks anyway, Rush County refused to worry about the war and the draft—because We Had Willkie!

Local excitement began to develop before the Republican National Convention at Philadelphia in June as Rush County GOP politicians figured that Willkie, a former Democrat who defied President Franklin D. Roosevelt, "might have a chance" for the nomination.

Willkie, a New York lawyer, and president of a huge utility, was not well-known here but his wife, the former Edith Wilk, was an ex-Rushville girl and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Cora Wilk, still resided on West Eighth Street.

Furthermore, the Willkies' young son Philip was born here and had spent most of his summer vacations in Rushville. Philip, a student in 1940, later was to serve in the U. S. Navy after America entered the great global war within a comparatively short time.

So, many Rush County residents kept a radio ear tuned in on the convention at Philadelphia. After badly trailing Thomas Dewey and Robert Taft on the first ballot, Willkie swept to victory on the sixth!

Shortly afterward, the magic announcement was made that the Republican nominee would locate his campaign headquarters in Rushville. Mrs. Willkie's hometown. Willkie took a Western vacation after the convention, however, and nearly six weeks were to elapse before the Presidential candidate made local history by arriving at his campaign headquarters in the Rush County seat.

As one of The Rushville Republican's very few reporters, I got an early seat on the Willkie merry-go-round here and stayed there until the end.

Riding with Mervin Alexander, I was a passenger in the large local caravan which met Willkie at the Indianapolis Airport on that memorable night of August 15.

Behind a police escort and traveling through lines of cheering persons in Indianapolis and the small towns between that city and Rushville, we brought the Presidential candidate here.

Although it was almost midnight, what surely was Rushville's largest night-time crowd in history was waiting to give the appreciative Willkies a roaring, colorful welcome.

The biggest section of the screaming multitude met the caravan at "The Crossroads of Rush County"—Main and Second Streets.

It was a moment to remember forever—and I still seem to see little Al Linville (among all the others) waving his straw hat and yelling wildly.

The Willkies moved that night into the large brick home at 601 North Harrison which Mrs. C. A. Mauzy had turned over to them for their stay here.

The accompanying newsmen and the rest of the Willkie entourage were hustled into the Lollis (now Durbin) Hotel—and from then on it was to be Rushville's era of glory for the next few weeks.

Approximately two dozen reporters, representing the nation's major news services and newspapers, remained for the duration at the Hotel where they instantly became close friends of the innkeepers, Leo and Mary Durbin.

For the next month, top-line political news stories originated from Rushville, Indiana. Western Union had beefed up its facilities here for the Willkie stay while its rival, Postal Telegraph, opened a temporary office here. Telephone service, of course, was greatly increased.

Hardly had the Willkieites settled down here, however, than they were gone for a day. On August 17 the Republican nominee delivered his official acceptance speech at his home town of Elwood.

A special train on the old New York Central (now Penn Central) carried hundreds of Willkie's loyal followers from Rushville to the Elwood event.

After the acceptance speech, Willkie spent most of the next month at his Rushville headquarters—both at the hotel and at his campaign home on North Harrison. Some of his news conferences were held on the spacious lawn of the Mauzy residence.

Representing the local press, I attended many of the Willkie events with the big-time reporters. Before the campaign was over, I became well acquainted with these visiting newsmen, who generally were quite nice and friendly. Being on expense accounts, (which I wasn't), they also proved to be generous at occasional wassail bouts at the Lollis.

Many political and other tycoons called on Candidate Willkie during his Rushville tenure, creating the feeling here that visiting big-shots were almost a dime a dozen. A few dignitaries also eluded the newsmen and made secret calls on Willkie.

On the other hand, every day brought crowds of everyday citizens from hundreds of places. Most of these friendly people merely wanted to get a glimpse of Willkie if they could. They milled about the hotel, the temporary Willkie home and the business district. Many, of course, desired a look at some of the five Willkie farms west of here and his farm manager, Miss Mary Sleeth, was one of the busiest persons here.

It all was a part of the glorious, exciting confusion that infected this community during the Willkie days. However, I recall no demonstrations or violence which likely would have developed 32 years later had a Presidential candidate been here.

Willkie himself was guarded by two plain-clothes detectives imported from New York City, assisted by State Trooper Bill Gemmill, who lived here, and the Rushville police headed by Chief Harry Levi.

The hectic period eased September 12 when Willkie and his party left here by special train on the B & O for a coast-to-coast campaign tour. He returned to Rushville only for brief periods after hitting the trail in earnest.

The evening before his departure, Willkie hosted all of the newsmen at a dinner in the hotel. Barton Cartmel and I, being designated as the local "working press," were guests at this festive event.

Incidentally, while the political campaign was nearing an end, the belabored Republican Company employees found time to publish an 80-page Centennial edition in honor of the local newspaper's 100th anniversary.

It is no news, of course, that Willkie failed that November in his attempt to defeat President Roosevelt. He ran a good race, however, and carried Indiana. And it must have been especially gratifying to him that Rush County, his adopted home, gave Wendell Willkie a whopping majority!

Now, the unsuccessful 1940 Presidential candidate and author of "One World," lies in East Hill Cemetery where he forever will remain a part of this community.

EDITH WILLKIE

Jean Green

It was Edith Willkie Day in Rushville in 1940, when she and her famous husband returned from the Philadelphia Convention. The neighbors and friends, the members of her sororities of Tri Kappa and Kappa Alpha Theta, the members of the Sunday School Class that she had taught at the First Presbyterian Church all shared a great elation knowing that "our Edith" might be the next occupant in the White House.

Edith had not been born in Rushville but her ancestors on her mother's side had been first settlers in Rush County. Her grandfather was a famous attorney and her great uncles were Rush County physicians. Edith had been born in Tennessee but her mother and father returned here and bought property on North Harrison Street. She and sister Erema graduated from Rushville High School. She attended dances here, joined the Tri Kappa sorority, and obtained her first salaried job at the local library as assistant librarian to Mary Sleeth. Her only son, Philip Herman, was born in Rushville; so, after all, Rushville was her home.

It was in Rushville that she had met her future husband. She was maid of honor at the wedding of her best friend, Louise Mauzy to George DeHority of Elwood. Wendell Willkie was best man. At one of the pre-nuptial parties, she had been seated next to Mr. Willkie and he, half in jest but with a serious twinkle in his eye, said, "Wilk and Willkie, what a great combination."

My first introduction to Edith Wilk Willkie was at a tea held in the local Elks Club. After hearing all the wonderful things about her, I was curious to meet the petite lady who had caught the fancy and imagination of the brilliant Wendell Willkie. The receiving line was long and she took time to reminisce. When we were introduced I was struck by her sincerity and modesty. Here was a lady . . . one who could grace any party whether an international or national function, with dignity and ease. Honor and adulation would not change her beliefs or her ties of friendship for those that she had always known.

Edith is the daughter of Philip and Cora (Smith) Wilk. Her father had been in the construction business and supervised the construction of railroads and highways. He had been in charge of the construction of the Rushville Court House which was completed in 1896. For a few years the Wilks lived in Tennessee but returned to Rushville when Edith was six.

Not only was Rushville and Rush County home to the Wilks, but, after Edith and Wendell were married, it became the adopted home of her husband. He often bragged that the only real estate he owned was in Rush County, Indiana. Their son, Philip, spent his summer vacations here with his grandparents and he chose Rushville for his home.

Edith attended Indiana University. When she met Wendell he was attending law school in Bloomington. After graduation he returned to Elwood to practice with his mother and father–both attorneys.

Elwood needed a librarian, so Edith took the job. Soon Wendell managed to get an appointment on the Elwood Library Board.

Edith said, "A tall young lawyer rushed me so I decided to resign and go home, but that didn't stop him. He just went to the trouble of coming to Rushville on weekends. Spring came, and he went into service."

Edith and Wendell were married in the home of her parents on Harrison Street on January 14, 1918. Wendell was stationed at Camp Taylor, near Louisville, Kentucky.

After the war, they lived in Elwood for a short time before moving to Akron, Ohio, where they lived from 1919 until 1929. In 1929, they moved to New York where he became president of the Commonwealth and Southern Company and a national celebrity.

During the campaign of 1940, Edith accompanied her husband on their coast to coast speaking campaign and where ever she went she impressed all with her modesty and her faith in her husband's ability and his platform.

After the heartbreaking defeat for president it was Edith who gave Wendell the courage and faith to continue leadership in politics.

On October 18, 1942, Wendell returned to Rushville after his trip around the world as President Roosevelt's envoy. He was tired. His wife and son met the plane, and he said he wanted to get a haircut, see the farms, and rest. But being home with his family restored his optimism and his report on the trip lengthened into book form. His observations were published in "One World". The original thinking in this book made it a best seller, world wide.

He died in 1944 and his family brought him home to rest in the East Hill Cemetery in Rushville. Edith continued to live in New York but came frequently to visit friends and son Philip and his family.

When the Rushville High School featured a special convocation program honoring Wendell Willkie, she always returned. She came for the memorial service held at gravesite on the 20th Anniversary of his death.

While she is quick to say that she has received no particular honors, yet since 1944, she has never stopped in her desire to eliminate racial discrimination, to foster education, and improve culture.

She was instrumental in setting up the Willkie Foundation. She was on the New York World's Fair Board, the Board of Trustees for Skidmore College, the Salvation Army, the National Board of the U S I, the Board of Governors of the Women's National Republican Club, the New York Infirmary, and for a short time was on the national Y W C A Board and the Board of the China Institute, the Girl Scouts, and the national board of the Girl's Club.

"I was a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission under President Eisenhower for 8 years" she said. "For this assignment I was sent to Europe many times for the commission and for the many dedications. I was also in Honolulu and Manilla where we have large cemeteries."

She remembers vividly her experience in Washington when she was asked to appeal to the Congressional Committee for more money for heart research. "I appeared with Dr. Paul White of Boston, the great heart specialist, and Dr. Irving Wright now Emeritus Clinical Professor of Medicine at Cornell University Medical School".

She was co-chairman of Korean Relief with Dr. Howard Rush and Henry Alexander. At the present time she serves on the Council of the New York Library.

Never bored, never dull, Edith Willkie continues to look at life honestly and with great expectation. Since her early childhood, she has been "afraid she would miss something." This gracious lady has brought honor to America and to Rush County.

MEDICINE IN RUSH COUNTY

Jean Green

Physicians in Rush County have played an active role not only in health care but in maintaining high professional standards. They have provided leadership in state and national medical organizations.

Rush County and Rushville were named for a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a teacher of medicine and physician.

Dr. William Laughlin, one of the first physicians to come to southeastern Indiana, chose Rush County for his home in 1822. He entered a medical partnership with Dr. Horatio Sexton in 1823.

The Fifth District Society of Medicine was formed in 1828 with seven Rush County physicians as active members. Meetings were held twice a year alternating in Richmond, Rushville, Connersville, Liberty, Brookville and Lawrenceburg. Members made the trip on horseback.

The Fifth District Society issued medical licenses after applicants had proved to a Board of Censors that their qualifications included thorough medical training and good moral character.

The Rush County Medical Society was formed in 1846 with the following charter members: Drs. H. Sexton, William Martin, William Bracken, William Frame, John Howland and Jefferson Helm. Junior members were Drs. James Wilkinson Green, Marshall Sexton, Erastus Bussell, and Nathan Tompkins.

The first meeting of the Indiana State Medical Society was held in 1849. The Rush County Society preceded the formation of both the State Medical Society (by 3 years) and the American Medical Association (by one year).

In 1903 the Rush County Medical Society met with the following members present: Drs. Joseph Bowen of Occident; Frank Cregor and John Sipe of Carthage; Lot Green, Frank Hackleman, Charles Carson, John C. Sexton, William G. Smith, William J. Smith, Dawson Van Osdol, E. I. Wooden, William Coleman and Frank H. Green of Rushville; Drs. Charles Hoagland, L. R. Huddleston and Samuel Thomas of Milroy; Drs. Stewart Johnson and I. F. Smith of Arlington; Drs. H. H. Elliott and J. R. Paxton of Glenwood; G. Verne Logan, New Salem; Charles Rea, Falmouth; Henry Metcalf, Andersonville; and T. R. Blount of Homer.

In 1940, members include Drs. C. C. Atkins, R. O. Kennedy, Roy Shanks, Willard Smullen, D. I. Dean, Frank H. Green, J. E. Walther, H. P. Metcalf, Lowell M. Green, E. I. Wooden of Rushville, C. L. Smullen of Raleigh, Joseph Bowen of Occident, George McNabb of Carthage and Robert Spindler of Milroy.

Four generations of the Sexton family have distinguished themselves in medicine and surgery in Rush County. John C. Sexton did the first successful operation for pistol shot perforation of the intestines in Indiana in 1888. In 1893 he had built the first surgical

Record of a family of physicians

hospital in southeastern Indiana. The dates of practice are Horatio Sexton 1823-1865, Marshall 1844-1889, John C. 1880-1936, and Cullen.

The Green family, which arrived in Rush County in the 1820's, has provided, both in number of physicians and in dedication, an outstanding medical record. Five generations of the Greens have been medical doctors. Sixteen have been licensed physicians, two dental surgeons. Ten chose to practice in Rush County and have given 306 years of service to their Community.

The first brothers to practice were Dr. James Wilkinson Green and Dr. William Frame Green. Dr. William Frame was a charter member and first president of the Shelby County Medical Society. Six of the seven sons of Dr. James W. Green became licensed physicians. In 1919, Dr. Frank Green, Sr., opened a surgical hospital above his office which operated until World War II in 1944.

State leadership of the Indiana Medical Society was provided by Dr. Marshall Sexton in 1882, his son John Chase Sexton in 1889, and Dr. John Moffett acting as state president in 1864. In recent years Dr. Frank Green served as state president of the Indiana Academy of General Practice in 1954. He was an Indiana delegate to the National Academy of General Practice from 1950 until 1960. From 1964 until 1972 he was an elected delegate from Indiana to the American Medical Association and is now serving on two national AMA Committees, the Insurance Review Committee and the Committee on Private Practice. He is a member of the executive board of Blue Cross-Blue Shield and in 1966 received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from alumni of Rushville High School.

Medicine since World War II has seen the rise of public health, and the advent of penicillin and antibiotics in the treatment of disease. There is now a multiple and almost infinite number of technical methods to use in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Rush County is now free from the epidemics of malaria, cholera, typhoid, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, small pox and diphtheria.

Since World War II, members of the Rush County Medical Society have given their time to immunize school children against diphtheria, whooping cough, and small pox. Mass immunization against poliomyelitis and rubella have prevented community epidemics. In 1944, Blue Cross-Blue Shield Insurance Plan established in Indiana with W. U. Kennedy of New Castle, Director.

Local physicians continue to keep in touch with all modern medical procedures. From time to time they enroll in national clinics held by university trained teachers and attend state and national medical meetings.

The Academy of General Practice includes in membership Drs. Charles Sheets, Marvin Norris, Harry McKee, Davis Ellis, C. W. Worth, and Frank Green. Drs. Green and Worth were charter members of the Board of General Practice Founders Group established in 1945. Dr. Norris is a diplomate of the organization.

The 1972 president of the Rush County Medical Society is Dr. W. H. Nutter and Dr. Sheets serve as secretary-treasurer. Dr. Schneyer is Chief of Staff.

Recent graduates fom Rushville who have distinguished themselves in medicine:

Dr. Joseph Walther, son of Dr. Joseph and Winona McCampbell Walther now practices in Indianapolis. He is president and founder of the Winona Memorial Foundation which owns a 401 bed voluntary non-profit hospital, named for his mother. He is assistant professor of medicine at the Indiana-Purdue University School of Medicine, past national president of the American College of Gastroenterology, and Diplomate American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. David Graham Pugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Pugh, I. U. School of Medicine 1932, is chief consultant of the Radiology Department at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. He is on their speakers Bureau and has conducted clinics in Europe, Japan, and South America. He is professor of Radiology in the Mayo Graduate Medical School. His research interest: metabolic bone diseases, arthritis, and bone tumors.

Dr. James Stanton McBride, son of Mr. and Mrs. Will McBride, I. U. School of Medicine, 1922, is a specialist in Pulmonary Diseases at Indianapolis. He achieved renown through the state and was on the teaching staff of the I. U. Medical School. For twenty-five years he conducted a monthly TB clinic in Rushville for the County Health Department.

Dr. George Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Davis, I. U. Medical School in 1938, consultant in Dignostic Radiology, Mayo Clinic, Associate Professor of Radiology at the Mayo graduate school, President-elect of the Minnesota Radiological Society, House of Delegates, Minnesota State Medical Association, Research interest: techniques of angiography and heart and coronary artery disease.

Dr. David Lot Green, I. U. School of Medicine 1965, residency Orthopedic Surgery, U. of California Medical Center, Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland, specializing in bone replacement surgery under Prof. J. I. P. James, fellowship at Smith-Peterson Clinc, Boston Mass., under Dr. Au Franc. Now on teaching staff at Bowan-Gray Medical School, Winston Salem, North Carolina.

Dr. William Louis Green, I. U. Medical School 1969, Orthopedic surgery resident, U. of California Medical Center, San Francisco.

FEE-BILL

OF

THE RUSH COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

MEDICAL FEE-BILL.

Office advice in ordinary case, with medicine	$0 50 to 1 50
First prescription in a chronic case, at office, with written directions	2 50 to 5 00
Each subsequent prescription	1 00 to 2 50
Single visit in town in ordinary case in day	1 00
Each subsequent visit same day	50
Consultation in Town, in day	5 00
Joint attendance charged as ordinary visits.	
Visit in the Country, one mile	1 50
For each additional mile	50
Consultation in Country same as Town, with mileage added.	
Attendance on Small Pox, double rates.	
Vaccination, one in a family	1 00
Each additional vaccination	50
For night services 50 per cent. added to the above rates.	
Additional charge may be made for Medicines and use of Instruments, except in office business.	
For first visit in chronic case the usual charge for prescription in a chronic case, with mileage.	
Certificate for Life Insurance	5 00

OBSTETRICAL FEE-BILL.

Attendance on case of natural labor within five miles, and not detaining over six hours	$5 00 to 10 00
For each additional six hours detention	$1 00
Preternatural labor	10 00
Consultation in labor	10 00
Twins	10 00
Instrumental delivery	10 00 to 25 00
Turning	10 00 to 25 00
Placental Presentation	20 00 to 30 00
Removing Adherent Placenta	10 00
Attendance on cases of Abortion same as full term for attendance in False Labor, mileage and detention.	
First examination by touch, in addition to mileage	2 50
First examination with Vaginal Speculum	3 00 to 5 00

SURGICAL FEE-BILL.

Amputation at Hip Joint	$100 00 to 200 00
" of Thigh	50 00 to 100 00
" of Leg or Foot	50 00 to 75 00
" at Shoulder	100 00 to 200 00
" of Arm	30 00 to 60 00
" of Forearm	25 00 to 50 00
" of Toes or Fingers	5 00 to 15 00
Fracture of Thigh, Reduction and Dressing	30 00 to 60 00
" of Leg	20 00 to 40 00
Fracture of Arm	15 00 to 40 00
" of Forearm	15 00 to 30 00
" of Collar Bone	10 00 to 20 00
" of Shoulder Blade	10 00 to 25 00
" of Ribs	5 00 to 15 00
" of Lower Jaw, Reduction and Dressing	10 00 to 30 00
" of other Bones of Face	10 00 to 20 00
Luxation of Hip Joint, Reduction	50 00 to 75 00
" of Knee or Ankle	15 00 to 30 00
" of Shoulder	5 00 to 15 00
" of Elbow	20 00 to 40 00
" of Small Joints	5 00 to 10 00
Operation of Trephining	50 00 to 100 00
" for Stone in Bladder	100 00 to 200 00
" for Strangulated Hernia	50 00 to 100 00
Reduction of " " by Taxis	5 00 to 25 00
Operation for Aneurism (Large,)	50 00 to 100 00
" " " (Small,)	10 00 to 20 00
" of Tracheotomy	25 00 to 50 00
" of Laryngotomy	25 00 to 50 00
" for Radical Cure of Hydrocele	20 00 to 50 00
" by Tapping—Hydrocele	5 00 to 10 00
" for Hare-Lip	15 00 to 30 00
" for Strabismus	20 00 to 50 00
Excision of Tonsils or Uvulae	5 00 to 10 00
Tapping Chest or Abdomen	25 00 to 50 00
Catheterizing	2 50 to 5 00
Dressing Simple Wounds	1 00 to 20 00
Extirpation of Mammary Gland	25 00 to 100 00
" of Tumours	5 00 to 100 00
Venesection	50
Scarification and Cupping	1 00
Opening Abscess	50 to 2 00
Consultation in Surgical Cases	10 00 to 25 00
Assistant Surgeon in Capital Operations	10 00
Operation for Cataract	50 00 to 100 00
" for Inversion of Eyelids	10 00
" for Removal of Foreign Bodies	1 00 to 50 00
" for Pterygium	10 00 to 25 00
Dressing Injuries and Extirpating Tumours of Eye	5 00 to 25 00
Extraction of Foreign Bodies from Nasal Passages	5 00 to 10 00
" " " External Ear	1 00 to 5 00
Removal of Masses of dead bone	5 00 to 100 00
First Prescription for Gonorrhea (in advance,)	10 00
" " for Syphilis "	10 00
Operation for Radical cure of Hemorrhoids	25 00 to 50 00
" for Fistula in Ano	25 00 to 100 00
" for Vesica Vaginal Fistula	50 00 to 100 00
For Examination of and Opinion in a Medical or Surgical case which is to be conveyed to another Physician or Surgeon for treatment	5 00
Post Mortem Examination before a Coroner or Magistrate, when evidence is not to be given in Court	15 00
When evidence is to be given in Court	30 00
Post Mortem of an exhumed body	50 00

Mileage to be charged in addition.

Resolved, That attachment to this Fee-Bill be considered as binding as any article in the Constitution of this Society, an I that any member habitually violating it may be arraigned, tried, suspended or expelled, as for any other offence against the Constitution or ethics of this Society.

JOHN ARNOLD. J. H. SPURRIER. A. C. DILLON. JAMES THOMPSON. MARSHALL SEXTON.
H. G. SEXTON. JOHN MOFFATT. JOHN J. INLOW. WILLIAM A. PUGH. ALVIN CARLEY.

INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL PRINT.

Fee bill of Rush County Medical Society.

HOSPITALS IN RUSH COUNTY

Jean Green

The first hospital in Rushville was a private hospital built by Dr. John Chase Sexton in 1892. It was built on Fifth Street on a lot adjacent to the Sexton Home at Fifth and Main Street.

This hospital was one of the first in Southern Indiana and was the only hospital between Hamilton, Ohio, and Indianapolis. Babies were delivered in the home and before this time any surgery in Rush County had been done in the home or sent to Indianapolis.

The skill of Dr. Sexton as a surgeon had attracted state wide attention when he successfully operated for a pistol shot perforation of the intestines in 1888 and the patient lived.

In 1902, this small private hospital was replaced with a two-story building on the same location. An architect from New York City, Mr. Logan, designed the building and it was operated as a surgical hospital. When Dr. Sexton retired in 1929, he sold the building to the city to be used as city-financed hospital.

Dr. Frank H. Green, Sr., an 1897 graduate of the I. U. Medical College studied a surgical preceptorship under Dr. Sexton. During World War I, Dr. Green served as captain in the war specializing in X-ray and surgery. On his return from service he opened a 6-bed hospital in 1919, above the office which he shared with his brother, Dr. Charles Green, D.D.S. Following his death in 1940 the hospital was operated by a nephew, Dr. Frank H. Green Jr., who had specialized in surgery at New York Post Graduate College in 1938. In 1944, during World War II, the Green Hospital closed.

The present Rush Memorial County Hospital was opened in 1950. This modern limestone building included 51 beds and 16 bassinettes.

In 1971 an addition was added to the hospital making available 84 beds and 16 bassinettes. Twenty one beds are for long term care.

At the time the new addition was added, a special wire service was installed to the Indiana University Medical Center so that EKGs could be read by instant communication. Radiological service is available under Dr. James Grief. The laboratory is serviced and supervised by Haymond, Thornton, Castin, and Buehl of Indianapolis and is available at all times.

The County hospital was given temporary accreditation by the Joint Commission of the Hospital Accreditation six months after it was built and full accreditation in 1953. This accreditation has been retained by the diligent supervision of the medical records department under Mrs. Mary Wilson and her staff of record librarians, and at the insistence of the medical staff.

A special cable for closed circuit T-V has been placed in the new unit of the hospital to be ready for teaching programs sent out to nurses and doctors from medical teaching centers. The hospital has one of the most modern out-patient service departments in Eastern Indiana.

THE RUSHVILLE AIRPORTS

Jean Green

Tat Lower, an aviation pioneer, with the first airplane sold by him to Howell's. Mr. Lower, a Rush County native, was a transport pilot and licensed mechanic in the 20's and early 30's. He also flew mail. During the second World War he taught at the Roscoe Turner training school. He logged over 12,000 miles in the air.

The Rushville Airport is one of the oldest privately operated airports in Indiana. The sod airstrip was constructed in 1928 by Morris and Harry Howell one mile southeast on Highway 52. At the time of construction Lafayette (Tat) Lower from Rushville owned an airport at Richmond and was engaged in selling planes. The Howell brothers became interested in aviation and bought their first plane from him. It was a WAC OX5, a bi-plane with an open cockpit.

Other first planes at the airport were flown by Fred Lucas, and Charles O'Dell. During the depression, Mr. Lower sold his airfield in Richmond and based his plane operation in Rushville at the Howell Airport. He later became chief mechanic and serviced all planes flown here.

The Howell brothers operated the Airport until shortly after World War II (1946). Dick Thatcher and Lewis Ewbank leased both the airstrip and restaurant and conducted a VA flight school and repair shop. In 1948, Dick Thatcher sold his interest to Mr. Ewbank. Ramon Walker operated the restaurant and airport until 1964, when the restaurant burned.

At the present time the airport is operated by Gene Rummel, who conducts flying lessons, charter flights, and air freight. The airport is in constant use during summer and fall months. It is a base for crop-spraying planes and air freight is brought in for farmers and factories. Mr. Rummel services and maintains planes at the airport.

The Rushville Airport is the only public airport in Rush County. It is privately maintained, free to the community and open for public use.

SPORTS THROUGH THE YEARS

William R. Matney

Interest and participation in sports in Rush County has jumped by leaps and bounds since the turn of the century. Since the late Dr. Charles Green, local dentist, introduced basketball here in the winter of 1903-04, the sport has reigned as 'king.'

As everybody knows, Dr. James Naismith invented basketball in December of 1891. Football and baseball, being older had had their difficulties early in the century because of a lack of finances.

In its beginnings, basketball was described as rougher than football or boxing, but through the years it has become more refined and is really the big money-maker of the state, especially in the high school ranks.

During those first games most courts were outside or in poorly-lighted halls, some with posts that the athletes had to maneuver around.

Richland actually was credited with pioneering the sport locally in about 1900.

W. O. Headlee, long-ago principal of Richland School, has been called the "Father of Rush County Basketball."

The sport quickly became popular and, with its attraction, was a big boon because it could support itself financially and also help to turn other sports programs into money-making projects.

Rushville had its first organized team in 1907, and the Graham Annex was the first home of the Rushville team. During the first days of the sport, the center-line rule was in effect. Only the two centers could go across the court at will with the forwards confined to their end of the floor and the guards likewise forbidden to cross the center line.

Things have changed considerably since then.

The Rushville High School football squad contributed $130 to aid in the building of the local gym which was finished in 1926. Football at that time was considered the big money-maker, although it had its problems.

The first basketball game at Rushville was played November 1907, with the players being the ticket salesmen. The first out-of-town game was at Richmond in 1908, played during the afternoon.

Milroy first started its basketball in 1908-09. Manilla was the first uniformed team in the county in 1906 as the parents of the participants made the suits. New Salem was among the latest of the schools to take up the sport, 1910-11.

In the early days the sectional winners went directly to the state tourney. Two regionals then formed at Bloomington and Lafayette. The present setup of the Tourney came into being in 1935.

Since that time, which could be considered "modern basketball", many changes have taken place in the sport, with the consolidation of the county schools in 1969 being the biggest change in this area.

The number of high schools in Rush County was reduced from a total of 13, back in the early days of the tourney, to two, with Rushville Consolidated High School and Morton Memorial being the remaining high schools in 1972.

Those first schools were: Arlington, Milroy, Raleigh, Manilla, Rushville, Carthage, Moscow, New Salem, Mays, Morton Memorial, Ging, Glenwood, and Webb.

Raleigh was the first Consolidated School in the United States but it was eliminated by another consolidation program in the 1960s.

All of the county schools still have basketball participation, in the form of grade and middle grade teams.

The Rush Community Conference was formed after consolidation for the junior high schools in the county.

Rushville joined the South Central Conference as a charter member in February of 1936. The New Year's Tourney in which RCHS, Connersville, Greensburg, and Shelbyville participate is the oldest in the state with the same four teams still entered.

No Rush County team has ever won the state championship. Milroy has been in the final eight once and Rushville in the final eight on seven occasions, but never made it past the semi-state.

The County Tourney began in 1920 and Rushville was an early participant, but withdrew after a few years. Manilla won the first event by downing Rushville, 20-9, in the finale and the Raiders of Carthage won in 1968, the last such event, by stopping Milroy, 55-43, in the final game. No tourney was held in 1943 because of World War II.

Memorial Gym first opened its doors in 1926 and Rushville defeated Greensburg in that first game.

The local sectional was held for 52 years at Rushville but finally lost out to progress this year, 1972.

The first big blow came in 1959 when Connersville finished its new "net bowl" and the regional was moved there after many years at Rushville. The major consolidation of high schools which occured in 1969 helped bring an end to the Rushville Sectional.

Basketball brought about the emergence of another sport in the early 1950's, cross country. Jim Gridley, assistant principal now at RCHS, started the sport, which he guided for three years. Cross Country was first designed to help get basketball players into shape during the off season. Since that time, Rushville won the SCC title in the sport in 1963-64, under Jack Brown, who is still the coach of cross country.

In the county, cross country also had its own competition. During the years that the sport was held on a countywide basis and county meetings were held, Morton Memorial as a team won every county meet from 1960 until 1967.

Baseball is an old sport also, but its prominence in high scool never really took hold until 1950-51. The first baseball tourney on a state-wide basis wasn't held until 1967.

Milroy, the first year of the baseball tourney, took ten players to the Greensburg Sectional and won that event only to lose to North Dearborn in the Regional, 4-2.

Rushville went the farthest of any county school in baseball in 1969 as they won the Sectional, Regional, and lost out in the first game of the Semi-State, 10-0, to Bloomington.

The County Baseball yearly event ended in 1967 with Morton ending Milroy's three year reign by defeating Carthage in the finale, 2-1.

Since consolidation, Interchurch League basketball has been formed to help take up the slack and during the early 1960's Little League and Babe Ruth baseball, as well as Cub Scout League diamond crews, began to gain the attention of the county.

Football also is a big attraction at Rushville, although the county teams for the most part never really got started in the sport. The grid sport was revived at RHS in the 1926-27 season after a 20-year lapse that was blamed partly on financial troubles.

Memorial Field was built during that year. Later the name was changed to Hinshaw Field in memory of Bob Hinshaw, who coached at Rushville for 17 years. Hinshaw also went on to achieve recognition on the state level as a member of the IHSAA board of control just prior to his death. Hinshaw coached all of the sports at Rushville, a bit of a change to the present set-up when a coach is required for each sport.

Jim Gridley also started the golf program in 1950 at Rushville, and tennis has a long history, although neither have the spectator attraction of football or basketball.

Track and wrestling also are old sports in the county, although wrestling lost its appeal and was revived only six years ago at Rushville.

The only time Rushville won the all-sports award in the SCC was the first year, 1944-45, and Rushville also won the golf title in the 1960-61 season.

What sport will take the limelight in the future is unknown, but now it appears basketball still has the upperhand.

INDIANA SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' CHILDREN'S HOME

By Helen Moore

The I.S.S.C.H. is located at the north edge of Rush County, approximately two miles south of Knightstown, Indiana, on State Road 140. It is State owned and operated, governed by legislation enacted by the State General Assembly. It was established for the care of minor children of honorably discharged service personnel who are destitute of means of support and education.

In the summer of 1865, Oliver P. Morton, the Civil War Governor of Indiana, called some fifty men to a meeting in his office to make plans for establishing a State Soldiers' Home. As a result of this meeting, $20,000 was raised through private contributions and fifty-four acres of land and buildings south of Knightstown were purchased and the Soldiers' and Seaman's home was established there. One of the buildings was a hotel on the west side of the road which is where the men lived. After the purchase of the Knightstown Springs side, the treasury was depleted and it was suggested to the Governor that the facilities be made a state institution.

A Mr. George Merritt of Indianapolis, who had attended the meeting in the Governor's Office, expressed his concern for the children who had been orphaned by the war. He had offered to give $5,000 for the benefit of the orphans if they were included in the planning, but it was decided that a project to care for the veterans and orphans both was too great an undertaking and that the group would only plan for the veterans.

Mr. Merritt proceeded alone and secured the services of a Miss Susan Fussell, who became the first Governess, and on November 24, 1865, she began caring for four soldiers' orphans in two rooms at the Military Hospital in Indianapolis. In April, 1866, the group moved to Knightstown Springs. They lived in a cottage on the hill on the east side of the road.

On March 11, 1867, the Home for Disabled Soldiers became one of the Institutions of the State of Indiana. It was for the maintenance of sick and disabled soldiers, their widows, and orphans. The formal opening was on June 15, 1867; and the first Board of Trustees appointed Dr. M. M. Wishard the first Superintendent.

During the next few years there were so many admissions that more room was needed. The State bought five more acres of land on the east side of the road and a new building was purchased. The Soldiers were moved to the new building and the children now lived in the Hotel.

By 1871 the total number of occupants had reached 371. In the early days of its history, fire plagued the buildings and on Christmas Day, 1871, the Hotel burned. After the fire, more space was needed so the veterans were moved to the National Military Home at Dayton, Ohio. The children then moved to the newer building on the east side of the road, now known as the Administration Building.

The Indiana Soldiers' and Seaman's Home was no more, and for the first time the children were in sole possession of the Home.

Fire struck again September 1877 destroying the Adminstration Building. The 230 children and 30 employees were saved, but they lost their possessions. The children were moved to the two-story frame school building which had been built in 1871.

In 1878 a new three-story Administration Building was completed on the foundation of the old one, and with an additional wing on the north, at a cost of $41,238.32.

Fire struck again in the Administration Building in 1886. The building was almost entirely rebuilt and a south wing was added. This is the building as it stands today.

In 1895, 113 acres of additional land were purchased for $6,000 and the many buildings have been built at various times. Today, there is a total of 417 acres of land.

Enrollment at the Home has fluctuated over the years. It increased following the Spanish-American War, but by 1910 it had dropped to 367 children. The Legislature then passed a law making it possible for grandchildren of Civil War veterans to be admitted and by 1911 the enrollment was back up to 410.

For the first time and only time to date, the enrollment exceeded 1,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935, when it was 1,010. With that many children to care for the Children's Division of the State Department of Public Welfare set up a Social Service Department at the Home in 1936.

The enrollment then dropped again to 369 during the fiscal year 1943-44. This was the year that World War II veteran's children was first admitted. The admission of these children brought the enrollment back up to 441 by the year 1945-46. Children of Veterans of the Korean Conflict were first admitted in 1957, but at the same time the enrollment had gone down again to 310. Since then there has been an increase with the enrollment at the present time of 443. These include 1 from Children of Regular Army Veterans; 4 from Children of World War I Veterans; 260 Children of World War II Veterans; 174 Children of Korean War Veterans; and 4 Children of Vietnam War Veterans.

From 1870 education has been a prominent feature of the Home. The adminstration has met the challenges in promoting and maintaining an educational program equal to the better schools in Indiana. Max E. Stanley serves as the Superintendent of Schools and is assisted by 37 teachers. The teachers are to be commended for having patience and understanding, giving direction, and encouragement, and above all for setting a good example for the children during their tenure of teaching at the Home.

The Home Chapel, named in honor of Abraham Lincoln, was dedicated in 1892 and the religious training of the children has been an important part of their education.

There have been many activities for the children outside of school down through the years and many people and organizations have made this possible.

Lake Graham was created in 1888, named in honor of Professor Graham who was Superintendent for nearly 17 years until he died January 21, 1908. This is used for swimming, boating, fishing and ice skating.

Ideas about recreation have changed through the years. This has included an amusement hall, Old Brown Cottage in 1871, summer recreation at Cottage Park, a camp site of 40 acres in a beautiful setting, a "Town Hall" where students may purchase drinks, ice cream, and candy; to a room with a juke box for dancing. "Date Night" was started during the 1933-34 school year. There have been many trips to Anderson Fair, Lake Manitou, baseball games, shopping trips, Riverside, Coney Island, and the Cincinnati Zoo. In 1960 the Dorothy Cortner Swimming Pool was built by the American Legion Auxiliary; 1962 added the skating rink; and 1971 saw the dedication of the "Bee Hive," and the "Goodrich Valley" a beautiful open-air amphitheater built in memory of John B. Goodrich.

You can hardly mention recreation at the Home without thinking of the many Patriotic Organizations who have given so generously of their time and money over the many years.

The Home is proud of its alumni. They have served their country in time of war. Several served in World War I. DeArmond Golloday was the first casualty and five more gave their lives before hostilities ceased. 499 ex-students served during World War II and 19 were killed.

The Home is also proud in many other ways. The alumni have always been highly regarded in the communities where they live. They are represented in most all occupations. They are doctors, lawyers, teachers and businessmen. They are especially proud of the alumni who have gone on to achieve national fame; such people as Frederick McCormick in journalism; General Paul Mayo in the field of military finance; Monte Blue in drama and entertainment; and Tim Brown in professional football.

From the beginning, the Home has been under able leadership supervised by a board of Trustees appointed by the Governor, and a Superintendent. There have been eighteen superintendents but only two have served in the past fifty years. Mr. L. A. Cortner served from October 1, 1923 to June 30, 1962 and since that time the Home has been under the capable leadership of Mr. S. W. Brewer.

FURNITURE HISTORY

Bob Waggener

All of the woodworking trades, among which were joinery, cabinet, coffin and chairmaking, followed close on the heels of Rush County's first settlers. The skills of carpenters, mill and wheelwrights, wagon makers, coopers and other wielders of woodworking tools were a must along the banks of Flatrock and Blue rivers. The framing of structures, the making of furniture and the fashioning of implements and woodenware used to the fullest the product of the virgin forest.

From the first, variety of craftsmanship was evident. Some pioneers with prior "settling" experience were self-trained and skilled in the use of woodworking tools and procedures. Others had the opportunity of woodworking apprenticeship in the states of earlier settlement. Many were the "do-it-yourselfers" of the era who had no choice but to acquire the basic skills of pioneer woodworking while performing the job. One hundred and fifty years later, private and public collections of antique woodworking tools and the products of those rude instruments give evidence of the ingenious variety of tools used and the range of artifacts produced.

The recollected history of various "old settlers" indicates that among the first manufacturing enterprises of Rush County was a chair factory established in 1822.

If true, this historical note establishes an uninterrupted pattern in the evolution of Rush County furniture making ranging from the solo carpenter-cabinet shops of the founders, to the giant living room furniture operation of the Schnadig Furniture Corporation, which firm in 1972 ranks as one of the largest producers in the world.

Sawmills, first located along the streams but later made operable most anywhere by the introduction of steam power, were a prerequisite to furniture making. They sprang up all over the county to convert the majestic walnuts, oaks, tulip poplars, ashes and other native trees into lumber for all kinds of structures, furnishings and wood products. Planing mills to size, smooth and shape the lumber were a natural projection of the saw mill. From this stage of woodworking by mechanical means the next logical step was the furniture manufacture.

Although speculation is used in setting many of the dates, there is evidence that a combination planing mill and table factory was located at the north east corner of Main and Elizabeth, (now Main and Third), sometime during the late sixties. This was probably Rush County's first serious effort at large scale production of furniture. It was known during the 1870's as, "The Table Factory" Mr. Abe Bowen manufactured dining room tables of a special extending kind, and the product was shipped all over the settled mid-west. It was known as a superior product, widely copied by other firms. Those persons currently in the antique business will occasionally run across a table carrying the Bowen trademark. Mr. Bowen applied for and received patents on special extension table slides. One of the claims made for the structural strength of this device was that when extended, the table would support the full weight of a horse, the avoirdupois weight of which animal was not stated.

Mr. Bowen is also given credit for being one of the first manufacturers of furniture to ship furniture "knocked down", ie. in parts to be assembled by the dealer consignee. The operation, although a successful one, burned down in the 1880's. It is stated that this innovative plant served as the incubator for Rushville's most widely known late nineteenth and early twentieth century furniture company. Mr. Orange Felts, an old time furniture manufacturer, told the author that in the late 1870's Mr. Manley Pearce, using the trade name of "The Pearce Furniture Company," rented a small amount of space and power from the Bowen table factory. Here he started the manufacture of beds and wash stands to be sold by the Bowen salesmen and shipped to the same customers as of the mother company.

The most widely known and respected of all early furniture factories in Rushville was the Innis, Pearce and Company. In the year 1883, W. M. Pearce, David Graham, Geo. Puntenney and Robert A. Innis formed a stock partnership for the production of bedroom furniture. This planing-mill-to-furniture enterprise was set up at the northwest corner of Harrison and Jennings, (now Harrison and Fourth), at the intersection of the Cambridge City and the C. H. & D. railroads. At first the firm gave employment to 15 hands, but with increases in business it soon employed more than 60 workmen. In 1892 a disastrous fire completely destroyed the factory and put them out of business. The businessmen of surrounding communities bid avidly for the flourishing though burnt out business to relocate in any one of a number of towns. The citizens of Rushville, sensing that they were about to lose a good thing, raised fifty thousand dollars to keep the Innis, Pearce and Company operation locally and to induce other manufacturing companies to come here. To that end a large "industrial park" land purchase was made, and added to the city. It did prove to lure other companies as well as maintain the burnt-out one.

The new plant was built in 1893 south of Magnolia, now Seventh street, between Oliver Street and the Newcastle and Rushville Railroad. The factory was unique for that time as it gave year-round employment. Wages were low, but old records show that a full bedroom suite could sell for as little as $15.00. After about forty years of prosperity, the factory fell upon the evil pre-depression days that came on the heels of the early twenty boom. Its doors were closed in the late twenties, and it was dismantled in the late 1960's.

The Readle, Warfield & Wilson Table Company was established during the golden era of Rushville furniture-making. This establishment, following the sawmill-planing mill format, was located at the north end of Julian Street in the late 1880's. Its life did not extend to end of the century. The only remaining building of that complex is a two story brick one now used as a warehouse by Taff Furniture Store.

Another little-known furniture manufacturing enterprise in Rushville history was the School Desk Co., established in the late 1880's. The names of Ed Pugh, Horace Hilligoss and Finley Bigger figure prominently in the history of this firm which held a patent on an improved type of school desk. Exact details of the operation and dissolution of this company have not come to light. One old-timer volunteered the information that the company moved to Springfield, Missouri and there flourished as a manufacturer of school and office furniture.

It is confusing to learn that the woodworking history of our company includes two Rushville Furniture Companies. The first, was often mistakenly referred to as 'the Kitchen Furniture Company.' It was built in 1893 by Emmet L. Kennedy, of bridge building fame, for James T. Kitchen, a Rushville furniture dealer, and Mason C. Kitchen. It was located at Lincoln (now 10th) & Oliver Streets. The organization was destined to ill fate as its first year of operation was climaxed by the Cleveland panic. It never recovered from that first financial blow. A bad fire in 1901 discouraged the stockholders to the extent that they refused to rebuild. They sold the wreckage to J. D. Case who in turn interested the stockholders of the Innis, Pearce and Company in forming a new company called The Park Furniture Company. Sales forces and designers of these two companies were combined, and the two firms had a close relationship until such time as the Innis, Pearce and Company discontinued operation. The heyday of The Park Furniture Company was in the decade following the depression prior to WW II. Roy Waggener and Bert A. Mullin were stock owners in the corporation during the period when The Park Furniture Company was known throughout the United States as manufacturers of fine cherry bedroom and dining room furniture. The firm operated under the above-named management until 1945 at which time it was sold to out-of-town interests. After ten years of indifferent operation the new company filed for bankruptcy in 1956. The building was for a time used by the Schnadig Corporation as a manufacturing unit. It is now unoccupied.

The second Rushville Furniture Company was organized in 1913 and operated under that name until 1968. It was located at 11th street and The Pennsylvania Railroad. Names of persons interested in this initial organization were Lon Stewart, Bob Tomkins, A. L. Riggs and Warder Wyatt, among others. The first organization was not financially successful, but in a subsequent reorganization a viable operation was commenced. Mr. Tomkins was joined by I. Lee Endres, and was later succeeded by Roy Harrold. This firm produced superior bedroom furniture shipped throughout the nation. During the late fifties and early sixties it manufactured radio and hi-fi cabinets. About 1965 the firm was leased to the Alan H. Hawkins Company, which firm continued operation until 1969. In 1971, Willkie Industries bought the building and machinery and is presently manufacturing a line of porch and lawn furniture as well as beds.

During the lush mid 1920's a new furniture company, The Endres–Tompkins Corporation, was formed by a local stock subscription. At the time of its building, it was the most modern dining room furniture manufacturing plant in the United States. All the new systems of conveyorization, automatic equipment and up-to-date woodworking methods were employed. It was hailed as a landmark in the progress of furniture manufacturing. This, however, was not enough to sustain the fledgling company through the rigors of the early 1930's and it fell victim to the depression. The buildings were purchased by The International Furniture Company in the late 1930's, which firm moved to Rushville from Mooresville, Indiana.

The largest furniture manufacturing company from the standpoint of employees, production and floor space is the Schnadig Corporation. This firm came to Rushville in 1936 and has been a substantial member of the industrial community ever since. It has added much floor space to its original operation and after experimenting with nearby satellite plants in the old Innis, Pearce and Park Furniture Company buildings, has now concentrated all its local operation in one building. Schnadig Corporation operates several other plants, and is considered the largest manufacturer of upholstered living room furniture in the nation. It has provided steady work for local craftsmen for many years.

In 1946 Jack Rehme and Bob Waggener, business partners from Rushville, started a small furniture manufacturing company in Homer, Indiana. The first trade name was Rushcraft Shops, subsequently changed to The Sampler. After about two years, the partnership was dissolved and Emy and Bob Waggener continued the business as a sole proprietorship. In 1969 it became a corporation with ten associates in the business owning stock.

The Sampler is known throughout the country as a small, specialized cabinet shop making cherry furniture to order. Its shop, employing only ten men, produces dining room, bedroom and living room cabinets and tables . It is in no sense a production shop and individually makes each piece of furniture at the time of order. The company works only in cherry and designs

only in the American tradition. The attractive showrooms of The Sampler are filled with gifts and accessories from all over the world. It has been called the furniture showplace of Rush County.

In the late 1940's, Manfurn Inc., upholstered furniture company was organized in Manilla. The company was organized by Mervin Alexander, Eugene Miller, William Coffman, and George McCoy. Early production difficulties terminated by a complete burn out of the buildings sounded the death knell for this company before it really got started.

In 1968 The Allan A. Hawkins Company built a new modern woodworking factory designed especially to produce cabinets for the stereo, television and radio trade. This corporation ran into financial difficulty shorty after the new operation commenced and was unable to continue. The fine new building has been secured by the Carrier Corporation, a non-woodworking organization producing air conditioning equipment. At this writing the company has not yet started operation.

Thus in part is told the story of furniture manufacturing for the first 150 years of our country. There were times when the entire community depended upon the fortunes of this industry, at times a precarious position for the economy of a town. Until the depression of the '30's furniture and furniture-related business and professions were the backbone of the community. Everyone was concerned that the plant managers would do well in selling their products in the furniture markets of Grand Rapids and Chicago. The factories were home owned and operated. Everyone knew the pitch and checked his timepiece by the various steam chime whistles of the furniture factories and sawmills. That furniture has not waned in the economy of Rush County is evident. In spite of the high mortality rate of woodworking plants there are more persons steadily employed in the production of furniture in 1972 than in any time since the founding of the county. This upswing of employment is due largely to the Schnadig Corporation, but it none-the-less proves a point.

The position of industrial woodworking and furniture-making in this era of mass-produced plastic house furnishings may be a transitory one. Mass-production and merchandising of furniture obscures the future. One can scarcely imagine our community without some semblance of sawdust, but then, our forefathers couldn't conceive of farming without horses. Rush County can look back with pride at the accomplishments and community contributions of the furniture manufacturers who have been with us from the start.

Copied from Rushville Republican, Tuesday, October 22, 1940

MOVIES IN RUSH COUNTY

Roy E. Harrold
Edited by Jo Anne Harrold Pell

Motion pictures have been shown in Rushville for sixty-five years!

The early ones were called nickelodeons for the obvious reason that the price of admission was five cents.

The first theatre actually devoted to motion pictures was opened in Rushville early in April, 1907, and was named the Vaudette. Even then safety was a big issue as revealed in a story in the Republican of January 28, 1908, which said that William E. Blakely, state factory inspector, plans an inspection of theatres and believes "every theatre should have two barrels of water on the stage in case of emergency."

In today's world of larger than life technicolor films, no one under fifty remembers the days when the picture jumped all over the screen; when the familiar "one minute please while the operator changes the reel" was flashed to the audience; when an out-of-tune piano was made to suffer by an exhausted player; when the light was poor and the characters were scarcely discernable; when a soloist sang the words of a popular ditty as they were thrown on the screen; when soft coal stoves provided heat in the winter and wall fans were the only means of summer cooling; when the patron received less than one-half hour's so-called entertainment (based on present standards) for five cents; when the store room "nickelodeons" sprang up like mushrooms, thrived for a time and then disappeared.

Early in 1910, Walter F. Easley came to Rushville from Elwood as a motion picture operator to work in the just-opened Princess Theatre which was located on the west side of Main Street just north of Third Street. He was very active in the development of the business during the next fifteen years.

The first Masonic Temple, which stood on the site of the present building, was erected in 1905, burned in 1913 and was rebuilt the following year. It was erected to accomodate the post office on the south, the Princess theatre in the center room and a bowling alley on the north. The Temple was dedicated in 1915, and Mr. Easley obtained the lease for the theatre.

Denning Havens reopened the old Princess building as the Mystic, completely remodeling the room and exhibited the first ten cent picture in Rushville—Mary Pickford in "Tess of the Storm Country."

When Mr. Easley took charge of the new Princess, he brought to Rushville Miss Jean Richards of Elwood as piano soloist. She was identified for many years with the theatre. Shortly after the close of the first World War in 1918, he remodeled the Princess, taking over the bowling alley and almost doubling the seating capacity of the theatre.

Mike Katsoros built the Castle theatre in the early twenties and ownership passed through several hands before Smith and Casady purchased it in 1924.

These two men bought the Princess from Mr. Easley in November, 1924 and continued to operate the two theatres until August, 1926, when Roy E. Harrold bought Mr. Smith's interest in the business. Mr. Casady and Mr. Harrold formed a partnership as the Rushville Amusement Company; the partnership ended in January, 1928, when Mr. Casady sold his interest in the theatres to Mr. Harrold.

Mr. Harrold continued to operate the Princess and Castle until June, 1946, when his son-in-law, John R. Pell, became his partner and took over the active management of the theatres. This partnership continued until February, 1962, when Mr. Quirn Schneider bought the Princess theatre; the Castle had been closed several years before this transaction took place.

In 1929 Mr. Harrold installed sound equipment in the Princess theatre and the first talking picture was presented in Rushville on July the 14th. The title was "The Rainbow Man," and it starred Eddie Dowling. In April of the previous year a Wurlitzer pipe organ had been installed, but talking pictures soon outmoded it.

This business has been a very influential one over the years; many of us can remember the Saturday cowboy shows, the continuing serials and the fabulous musicals. May the motion picture industry continue to bring joy, pleasure and entertainment to the people of Rush County!

PALACE

"Petticoat Perfidy"
(MAJESTIC)
"The Yeggman"
(RELIANCE)
TONIGHT, 5 CTS.

New
Princess

Decoration Day Program
"The Revolutionist"
Story of Love and Duty
Lubin War Drama
"The Ones Who Suffer"
Extra Good Selig Drama
Special Singing
5c ADMISSION 5c

Copied from Rushville Republican, Thursday evening, May 30, 1912.

DISASTERS

Robert Crawley

In thinking of disaster, we immediately turn our minds to three areas: weather, fire, and flood. These three are nature's disasters—and a fourth is caused by man himself—vehicle accidents. Mishaps in planes, automobiles, trains, and ships at sea have taken tragic toll in our world across the years.

In a search of the records of newspaper files of happenings in Rush County, much of our share of tragedy has come from three areas: transportation disasters, weather disasters, and flood. Of the most spectacular, but with least loss of life, is the disaster by flood.

Flooding has occurred in some degrees at various periods of time in Rush County. Three times of extremely high water are mentioned in files: 1847, 1898, and 1913. There have been other times, but not with such intensity and loss of property as these.

Of these three, the 1913 flood was the worst beyond doubt, the worst and most widespread in the history of the whole country. This high water left one man dead, hundreds of thousands of dollars lost in property damage, bridges and roads washed out all across the county, streets in the city undermined, homes everywhere damaged, some beyond repair. There was much personal suffering, much heroism in rescue work, and much sharing with the impoverished.

Searching the files, we find an "inside page" story on Monday evening, March 25, 1913, headlined, "Indiana Hard Hit By Fierce Gale." This was the beginning. Terre Haute was swept by a "cyclone" with many persons killed. All across the Central States heavy rain and storms were reported.

The next day the Rushville Republican did not print in their own plant. It was under water. Located at the northwest corner of Second and Perkins, this building was part of the flooded area. The high water came in the night, continuing all day, with slight recession by Tuesday evening. The worst flood of history had struck Rushville, Rush County, all Indiana, and all the Ohio River basin.

Because of the flooding of the press rooms of the Republican, this newspaper and the Rushville Jacksonian teamed up and put out a daily paper for one week, and called it the Rushville Republican-Jacksonian.

Julian Street people were captives in their own homes for two days. Telephone communications were out. Rushville and Rush County were cut off from the world. The worst hit county areas were the northeast and southwest. Moscow was inundated. A man by the name James Hubbard drowned in Rushville. Stores lost valuable merchandise. Some people in the lower west end of town lost every possession they owned in the world.

The Rushville Republican office at the corner of Second and Perkins in the flood of 1913

County bridges were washed away. There were tales of rescue from housetops by boat. Several citizens at Milroy attempted rescue work in the Moscow area, resulting in overturned boats, with rescuers clinging to trees all night long.

Listed in dramatic Milroy-Moscow community rescue attempts were Dr. Hougland, Joe Mills, Peet Pool, Rev. Paul Stewart, Mit Acres, Noah Colsher, and Luther Harcourt. Three of these were marooned overnight in trees when they fell out of their spinning boat. Boats built at night were used next day.

After receding some Tuesday evening, the flood began a rise again Wednesday. Sheriff C. L. Bebout was reported put to sick bed because of his wading the high water for long periods of time.

In an ad in the Rushville paper, C. M. Hall offered $5 each for return of three spray pumps washed away in the flood, located, he said, probably somewhere between Rushville and the Gulf of Mexico.

The railroad fill east of Rushville was blamed for much of the flooding in Rushville. It was claimed the fill backed up the water, and meetings were held to prevent the railroad from replacing the grade which was washed out by the flood. Citizens wanted a trestle bridge built, which would let the water pass through.

It was remarkable that with all the loss of property, both private and public, that but one life was lost. In some areas in the Ohio basin many lives were lost. Fortune smiled on Rushville and Rush County in spite of the 1913 flood.

Tornado Alley

Many times across the years there have been high winds and tornadoes of various intensities causing damage in the Rush County area. The tornado "line" generally follows a southwest to northeast pattern. There is generally wind damage in the county and city every year. Sometimes, especially during the time of the equinox, farm homes have been de-roofed, buildings toppled and blown away, power and utility lines downed, and the usual havoc which only a tornado can create. This makes living in this area more than just a little bit exciting. Because of the frequency of these botherations, it would be an endless task to enumerate them here. In our search of files, we could not find loss of life due to this type disaster.

Highway Slaughter

It is difficult for Mother Nature to compete with Mankind when it comes to real slaughter in tragedy of disaster. Rush County highway toll each year is numerous, even for a peaceful, country area located away from the metropolitan areas.

A chart is kept on the door of a closet in the editorial room of the Rushville Republican, and this chart enumerates the loss of life in Rush County each year on the highways. Each life lost in itself is a tragedy. When more than one loss occurs at a time, of course it becomes a disaster.

One of the worst such highway accidents occurred Saturday evening, November 15, 1941, when a Greyhound bus crashed head-on with an automobile three miles east of Rushville on highway 44. This tragedy took nine lives. The newspaper account continues: "Identification was complete today of six of the nine persons whose lives were snuffed out in the blazing inferno of a Greyhound bus wreck east of Rushville Saturday evening.

"Ten other bus occupants were injured but only three remained today as City hospital patients here, and it was believed that they would recover.

"Eight passengers died in the seething mass of flames which consumed the ill-fated vehicle after it toppled from an embankment, while Andrew Hensen, 26, of Cincinnati, driver of the bus, expired in the Greensburg Memorial hospital about six hours after the spectacular crash.

"After crashing into an automobile on State 44, three miles east of the city, about 4:45 Saturday evening, the west-bound Greyhound bus hurtled a culvert and plunged into a shallow creek to trap its 18 passengers and driver and to bring death to almost half of the vehicle's occupants.

"The trapped victims included three men, three women, and two small girls and each was burned beyond recognition. Only torsos remained of the eight which brought up intricate and puzzling identification problems. Most of the torsos were minus hands and legs, being burned off in the gasoline-fed inferno.

"The bus plunged top down into the creek and only seconds lapsed before the explosion of the gasoline tanks enveloped the big vehicle in flames. In falling, the back part of the vehicle apparently cracked open, an aperture from which most of the survivors escaped.

"Firemen kept a continuous spray of chemicals and water on the wreckage but the flames were so intense that no bodies were removed for nearly an hour. Six bodies were pulled out shortly after 6 p.m., but the last one was not extricated until 8 p.m. The last body was that of one of the two children."

In another multiple-victim accident of more recent time, five persons lost their lives in a crash of an automobile and camper truck one mile north of Milroy on highway 3, June 28, 1968. In this crash, four people of an Ohio family and a man from Rushville lost their lives. One man from Greensburg survived.

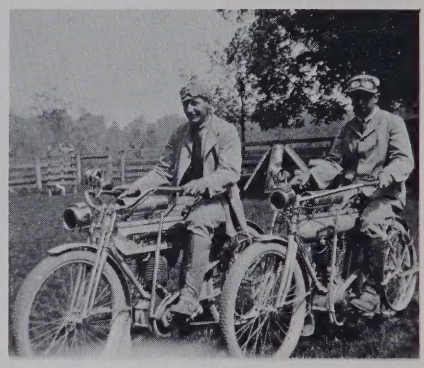
In times of tragedy, warm hearts of Rush County people have reached out and given aid to the stricken, the unfortunate, the victims. City police, the Sheriff's department, volunteer and paid Fire Departments, Rush County Red Cross, Salvation Army, volunteer church groups, and individuals have given a hand to those in need. A few years ago a Greyhound bus overturned west of Rushville, hospitalizing some passengers, causing the Law Enforcement Officials, Red Cross, Civil Defense, and Salvation Army to go into action. Peoples' needs were met, with more to spare. When Rushville became a snowbound community ten years ago stranding more motorists than the city's facilities could accomodate, these same volunteers went into action, opening homes and buildings for accommodations of shelter and food. In times of disaster and distress, Rushville and Rush County people quickly react in compassion and sympathetic understanding.

Scene at the burning wreckage of the bus crash on highway 44 in 1941

THE GOOD 'OLE DAYS IN RUSH COUNTY

For the Fourth of July parade in 1907, Dr. Frank H. Green, Sr., decorated his new Reo automobile with flags. The young ladies dressed in white with white hair ribbons are (lower row l to r) Dorothy Mulno, Aileen Green, Marjorie Titsborth. (Center Row) Kathryn Guffin (on Dr. Geen's lap), Kathryn Wyatt, and Kathryn Caron, (top row) Pauline Cosnell, Gladys Green, Marjorie Maxwell, Ara Retherford, and Helen Thomas.

Hog butchering



Falmouth motorcyclists

Emptying sugar water

Baptism at the ford just below Arthur Looney's in Union Township.

Harve and Grace Arnold – 1913
Fish from Ben Davis Creek

Feeding chickens

Caldwell's Triangle Garage employees

Early day parade in Manilla

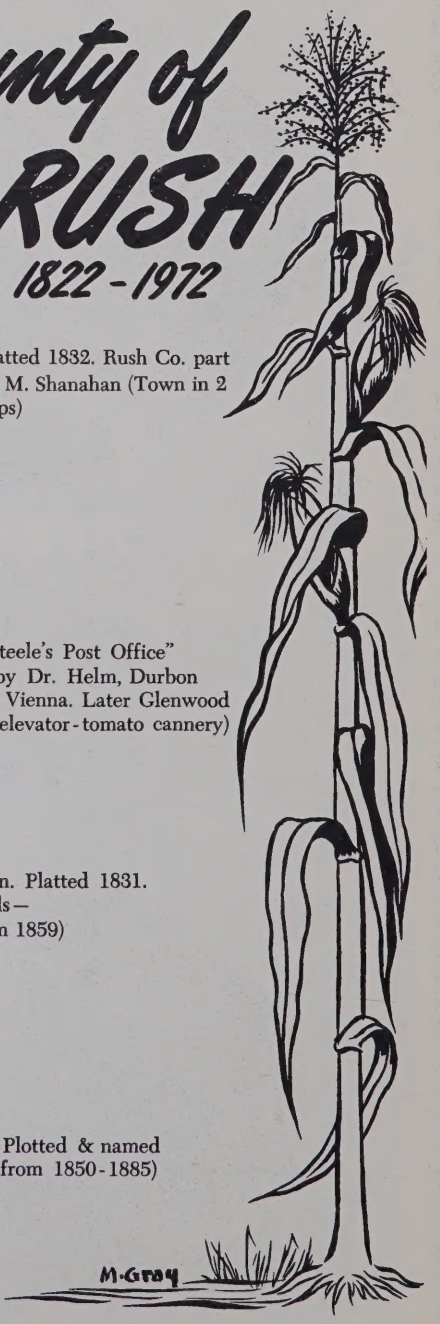
A meeting of Monday Circle, the oldest women's literary club in the county, formed in 1893
Left to right, back row: Lenora Caldwell, Elizabeth Kramer, Leila Gilbert, Anna Mullin, Ida Spurrier McDaniel, Glen Thomas, Anna Moses, Clara Lambert and Dell Green
Center: Anna Wooden
Front: Sallie Parsons, Jennie Payne, Jennie Madden, Flora Watson, Blanche Abercrombie

Peter Johnson at an early age

Scene at old C. H. & D. station

Clowning Around

County of RUSH
1822 - 1972



First called "McCanns" - Platted & named Raleigh in 1847 by Mr. Beard and Sara Irvin - 1876 1st consolidated township school in the United States of America.

RALEIGH

Platted by Samuel Kirkpatrick & Charles Throwley in 1884 (Grain Elevator & heading mill)

MAYS

Settled 1826 - Platted 1834 by John Clark & Henry Henley (Quakers) (Paper Mill)

CARTHAGE

Platted towns that did not populate - Ashland, Carmel, Mount Etna, Marcellus, Savannah & Smith

First called "Hamilton Station" 1883. Name changed because of P.O. conflict in names. (Grain elevator)

SEXTON

FARMERS (Unplatted)

OCCIDENT

FALMOUTH Fayette Co. part platted 1832. Rush Co. part platted 1867 by D. M. Shanahan (Town in 2 counties, 3 townships)

Acadamy

FAIRVIEW

Platted by Ida Henderson in 1890.

HENDERSON

First called "Beech Grove" next platted as "Burlington" by Tevis, Lee, & J. W. Green. Name changed to Arlington (Carding Mill & Tannery)

ARLINGTON

GINGS First called "Starr Post Office" Platted & named in 1870 by Michael Ging. (Livestock)

MAUZY Griffin station (unplatted)

3 commissioners organized Rush County on April 1, 1822:
1. Amaziah Morgan (Union Twp.)
2. Jehu Perkins (Noble Twp.)
3. John Julian (Orange Twp.)

RUSHVILLE

First called "Slabtown" Platted in 1876 as Homer (Sawmill, tile & brick factory, furniture)

HOMER

- June 17, 1822 selected Seat of Justice for County of Rush.
- June 18, 1822 Conrad Sailor selected to layout city of 150-200 lots.
- Land donated by Wm. B. Laughlin & Zachariah Hodges.
- July 24, 1822 these lots sold at auction from public square where the courthouse now stands.

CIRCLEVILLE (unplatted)

GLENWOOD First called "Steele's Post Office" Platted 1832 by Dr. Helm, Durbon & J. Morris as Vienna. Later Glenwood (Sawmill-grain elevator-tomato cannery)

First called "Wilmington" Early settlers from Carolinas. Platted & named Manilla in 1836 by Jacob Mull (Grain, livestock, heading factory)

MANILLA

ORANGE

NEW SALEM Settled 1822 by Moses Tompson. Platted 1831. Early industry, sawmills— (Two steam sawmills in town 1859)

RUSH COUNTY • SESQUI-CENTENNIAL • MAY 19 Thru 25 1972

GOWDY (Unplatted)

Platted 1830 by Nathan Tompkins & Nathan Julian (trade, grain, livestock)

MILROY

RICHLAND Settled & called "Palmyra" in 1822 by Jacob Fisher. Plotted & named Richland in 1854 by A. P. Butler & others (Academy from 1850-1885)

MOSCOW Settled 1822 by Woods & Querry. Platted in 1832 by John Woods. Surveyed by Wm. B. Laughlin (Noted for Barlow Guns)

WILLIAMSTOWN First called "Earl City" 1822 Platted by Wm. Duncan (Tile factory - grain elevator)

Design for placemats used extensively during the sesquicentennial celebration. Design by Melvin Gray and historical research by James Scott.

Dr. Laughlin

We are proud to have these previously unpublished pictures of Dr. and Mrs. Laughlin. They were furnished by Mary Louise Wilson, a direct descendent. Dr. Laughlin is often called the "Father of Rushville."

Mrs. Laughlin

DR. WILLIAM BEATTIE LAUGHLIN

Mary Poe Wilson

Dr. Laughlin was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, in 1778, the son of James Laughlin. He married Ruth McKinnon, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1851. He attended Jefferson College and graduated. In 1812, he moved to Scott County, Kentucky, and there taught school for four years. He then moved his family to Brookville where he taught school and entered upon the study of medicine. While teaching in this county and entered upon the study of medicine. While teaching in this county he had as pupils three boys who later became Governors of the State of Indiana; Govs. Ray, Noble and Wallace.

Dr. Laughlin came to Rush County in 1821 and was prominently indentified with the early settlement of Rushville. He entered the land upon which much of Rushville now stands. In 1822 he donated 75 acres of this land to the county for the county seat. Since his medicine had been taken under the preceptorship of Dr. Benjamin Rush, prominent Philadelphia physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence, Dr. Laughlin claimed the right to name Rush County and Rushville in his honor.

Dr. Laughlin, besides being a teacher, was a lawyer, member of the State Legislature, doctor, surveyor and farmer. He built the first school, the first academy, the first mill and gave money for the first church in Rushville.

He was a Presbyterian and an ardent Whig, later known as the Republican Party.

He was described by a contemporary thus, "He was a man of fine classical education, of firm religious principles and of delicate and refined moral perceptions. These qualities marked him as outstanding as a leader in all good works, and gave to the society he assisted in organizing a high and pure tone of morality."

Dr. and Mrs. Laughlin were the parents of fifteen children, nine girls all of whom lived to maturity and six boys, of whom three died in childhood, two died at the age of 22 and one lived to maturity.

The only male descendant, Harmony Laughlin, was sheriff of Rush County three times, for a total of ten years. He had nine children, three of whom lived to maturity. No descendants of these children live in Indiana. Two of Dr. Laughlin's daughters married Rush County men. Alcestes married John Carr and they were the parents of ten children. Lucretia married John Carmichael and they were the parents of five children.

Dr. Laughlin died in 1836 and is buried in the old Lower Graveyard. Mrs. Laughlin died in 1851.

DR. JEFFERSON HELM

Harvey M. Arnold, Sr.

Jefferson Helm, M.D., physician and capitalist of Rushville, though not a native of Indiana has been identified with her history for a long time.

He was descended from the Anglo-Saxons and the Scotch. His paternal grandparents emigrated at an early day from England to Mason County, Kentucky, where Jefferson Helm was born on November 27, 1803. His mother's family came from Scotland, her native land, and settled in Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh, where her father was accidentally killed by a falling tree. They afterward removed to Kentucky. Before their marriage his father, William, and his mother, Elizabeth Drummond, were inmates of Bryant's Station during its memorable siege by the Indians. The father was engaged for some time in the border wars. March 10, 1811, the family came to the Indiana Territory, and settled on Whitewater River, five miles below Connersville, in what was known as the "Twelve-Mile Purchase." Here Mr. Helm bought three quarter sections of land and began clearing it.

At the beginning of the War of 1812, Mr. William Helm was commissioned major and placed in command of the troops guarding the frontier. They were garrisoned in blockhouses, built about six miles apart and extending from the Ohio River to Fort Wayne. Before leaving home he protected his cabin by a stockade and trench, that his family might resist an attack. Many were their days and nights of anxious watchfulness; but happily the savage foe never did more than to menace them by skulking through the surrounding forest. Major Helm was a brave soldier and a prominent and successful business man.

His son, Jefferson, worked on the farm until the age of sixteen, when he began reading medicine in the office of Mason and Moffett, the latter of whom was a skilled physician. Up to this time, his winters had been spent at a common school in a rough log house with greased paper windows; and he never attended school in a building provided with the luxury of glass windows. However, though the buildings were rude, the teachers were well-qualified. He continued his medical studies three years, living meantime with the Mason family. At the end of that period he formed a partnership with his preceptor, Dr. Philip Mason, and commenced practice in Fayetteville which is now the town of Orange, Indiana.

After one year, Dr. Mason returned to Connersville and Dr. Helm went to a point three miles north. There, in 1832, he laid out the village of Vienna, now called Glenwood. He remained there till about the year 1845, when he removed to near what was then called Farmington. He still owned this farm at his death and his brick residence still stands there.

Two years later he founded the Farmington Academy, where three of his own children were prepared for college. Before commencing practice he passed a very rigid examination by the Board of Censors of the Third Medical District at the first annual meeting of the society. This body was organized in 1827 under a special act of the Legislature; but in 1839 was merged into the Fifth District of Indiana Medical Society, of which he became a charter member, and where he occupied the position either of censor or president as long as it existed.

With his medical skill and knowledge Dr. Helm combined a large political intelligence and ability. In 1850, as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, he helped to revise the fundamental law of the state. Two years later he was elected to the Senate of Indiana from the County of Rush, which was then a senatorial district. He served one term of four years. In 1858, having shown himself in the investment of the proceeds of his practice and in the management of his business to be an excellent financier, Governor Morton appointed him sinking fund commissioner, an office he held two years. During this time he was one of three commissioners, who, with a president and cashier, had charge of five million dollars. Two years prior to this, Doctor Helm removed to Rushville, and soon after abandoned his practice.

In the Civil War, at the call for more surgeons, he was appointed surgeon of the 47th Indiana Infantry, but was favored, on account of his age and intimate friendship with Governor Morton, by being placed on easy service. He served at Shiloh, Louisville, Madison, and Evansville.

Dr. Helm was a large landowner. His possessions comprised about nine hundred acres in Rush County and two thousand in adjoining counties, besides a large property in Indianapolis. He helped organize the Rushville National Bank and was later a director in it.

On April 28, 1831, he married Miss Eliza Arnold, a native of the Isle of Wight, daughter of Isaac Arnold and cousin of John Arnold, M.D. By this marriage there were born six children; Alice, wife of Ben F. Claypool, a prominent attorney in Connersville; Elizabeth, wife of William A. Pattison, a wholesale druggist in Indianapolis; William H., a farmer, unmarried; Jefferson, husband of Nancy Grey and an able lawyer in Rushville, Col. Isaac A. Helm, unmarried, 5th United States Infantry, who died of cholera in 1867 at Fort Zarah, Kansas, of which he was in command, and the youngest, Florence, wife of H. P. Cutter in Indianapolis.

The name was perpetuated through the children of Jefferson, to wit: George and Bertha and the fourth generation through George's son's Eugene and Robert. Dr. Helm's wife Eliza died October 30, 1866, and the doctor in 1881, at the age of 78 years.

By the buying and selling of land, Dr. Helm amassed an honest fortune. His pecuniary success was largely due to his strong common sense and remarkable judgement; he read men by intuition rather than by the knowledge gained from experience, though that was extensive. While practicing his profession his diagnosis seemed the swift result of intuition instead of the slow conclusion of reason; but this natural facility did not cause him to neglect the study of the science of medicine, and when he closed his professional career he was among the best qualified physicians of the state. With

these superior talents was united a moral excellence that heightened the character of his influence and exalted him in public regard. Dr. Helm was very widely known. He was a long time in practice and public work and formed an extensive acquaintance all through the state of Indiana.

ISAAC WILLIAMS

Pauline Matney Hume

One hundred fifty nine years ago, in the month of October, 1813, a man by the name of Isaac Williams made a deal with a neighbor in a little settlement in Eastern Tennessee. The neighbor received Williams' log cabin and Williams pocketed a few cash dollars. The deal consummated, Williams and his wife Peggy loaded their personal belongings and some provisions on two pack horses and with their two small children, William and Isaac, set out for the Indiana Territory.

Over the rolling mountains of Tennessee and Kentucky they traveled and across the deep, swift-running Kentucky rivers. Through primeval forests they fought their way, walking most of the time and leading their horses, until, at last, they came to the broad Ohio River and forded across to the bustling town of Cincinnati, the gateway to the new land, which was their goal. They rested a day or so in Cincinnati, and then resumed their laborious journey, going this time up the valley of the Great Miami, to the mouth of the White Water, where they turned west and finally arrived at the small settlement of Somerset which in a few years came to be known as Laurel. There they halted and set up their home.

Their seven hundred mile trek took the Williams family forty days, but this was remarkable time considering the difficulties under which they had traveled.

Isaac Williams became a solid citizen of Somerset for the next five years, but in 1819 rumors began to spread that the government had made a new purchase of land from the Indians, west of Somerset, and that this was to be opened to settlement just as soon as the government could get its plans to functioning.

Williams went over to investigate the new territory and, at a place near the present town of New Salem, he rode up to an Indian Trading Post that had been established in 1814 by Stephen Maple of Somerset. Maple did not live at the trading post but made periodic trips there from Somerset to carry on his trade with the Indians.

The trip wound up with Williams making another deal. He bought Maple's squatter's claim to one acre of forested land around the traveling post and then he rode back to Somerset to sell his home there and move his family, by then increased with the birth of another son named Jehu, to the "New Purchase". This was in the spring of 1819, more than two years before the county of Rush was formed.

When Isaac Williams moved his family in 1819 from Somerset to his newly purchased squatter's claim a few miles north of New Salem, he became one of the first permanent white settlers of Rush County. He lived at this location until his death.

Williams was in a dense wilderness inhabited by only a few Indians. The nearest white settlers lived on Sanes Creek, ten miles to the east, a day's hard travel through the roadless forest.

The first thing Williams did was to fell the great trees and clear an acre of land. Then he erected a brush fence around the clearing by dragging the tree trunks into a square and placing them end to end and piling the brush atop the logs. This done, he built his log cabin. There the Williams family lived in peace among the Indians until the fall of 1820, the time when the "New Purchase" was opened for public land sales.

Williams went down to Brookville to the government land office bearing a precious hoard of silver dollars that he had saved from the time he left Tennessee. His squatter's claim, purchased from the Indian trader Maple, entitled him to first chance at the land on which he lived. But when he counted out his coins, it turned out that he had seven counterfeit pieces among them and they were cast aside by the government agent. This left Williams with not enough money to complete the purchase and the future, after all his work, looked dark indeed, until a man standing nearby, touched by Williams grief, came to the rescue by loaning him the necessary dollars.

So Isaac Williams, one of the first white men to build a home in Rush County, returned to live out his days. He became a member of the Little Flat Rock Baptist Church upon its organization and was one of the most respected citizens of the new community. He was widely known as a hunter and was a crack shot with a gun.

He lived until September 6, 1853, dying at the age of 68, and was buried in the Little Flat Rock Cemetery in Noble Township. He was survived for twenty years by his faithful wife, whom all the people called "Aunt Peggy". One son, Isaac was killed in battle during the Civil War.

This cabin built by Isaac Williams is enclosed in a barn on the old Andrew Guffin farm, later owned by M. O. Sefton, and now owned by Mrs. Russell Logan. Protected from the elements, it is in a good state of preservation. How amazing it is that this cabin, built in the virgin forests still stands.

PLEASANT ADAMS HACKLEMAN

Joyce Ellis

Born in Franklin County, Indiana (then a territory) on November 15, 1814, to Major John Hackleman and Sarah Adams Hackleman was Pleasant Adams Hackleman.

P. A. Hackleman's father served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and was a native of Abbeville District, South Carolina while his mother was born in Stokes County, North Carolina. His parents were married in what is now Franklin County, Indiana, in the year 1810.

P. A. Hackleman spent his early years clearing off the forests of a newly settled country. On October 31, 1833, he married Sarah Bradburn, a daughter of Dr. John Bradburn from Pennsylvania. He continued

farming for three years while beginning to read law with John A. Matson, Esq., of Brookville, Indiana. After studying with diligence for ten months, he was licensed to practice law.

With his admission to the Bar in May, 1837, he moved his family to Rushville where he gained distinction in the legal profession. From August, 1837, to May 15, 1841, he held the office, Judge of the Probate Court of Rush County. In August, 1841, he was elected to the House of Representatives in the State Legislature. By the fall of 1847, he was appointed Clerk of the Rush County Circuit Court, in the place of John L. Robinson who resigned. The next two years he was re-elected to that office and served until November 1855.

As a Whig in 1847, and as a Republican in 1858, he was selected by his political friends as their candidate for Congress; although he was unable to be elected. On the Presidential ticket in 1852, his name was placed as Senatorial Elector for Indiana. In 1860 he was a delegate from the State at large to the Convention at Chicago which nominated Abraham Lincoln for President.

Becoming a member of the I.O.O.F., he soon was one of the leading spirits of the fraternity in the State. In July 1851, he was unanimously chosen by the Grand Lodge of the State to be one of their Representatives in the Grand Lodge of the United States. At this position he served for six years. Together with holding these offices and Grand Master of the State in November of 1857, he became editor of the Rushville "Whig" in 1840. Subsequently, he edited the Rushville "Republican" until he entered the army. He was selected as one of the Commissioners or delegates from Indiana to the Conference Convention in Washington City the fourth of February 1861. The purpose was to reconcile the differences and to avert war.

After the rebellion had begun, he offered his services to his country and was appointed Colonel of the Sixteenth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. This twelve months regiment was later turned over to the United States for the same term. He served nearly twelve months in northeastern Virginia and Maryland. Shortly before the expiration of his term, he was promoted to Brigadier General and ordered to report to General Halleck at Corinth.

Corinth was evacuated in June 1862 before he arrived. He was placed in command of the "First Brigade of the Second Division of the Army of the Mississippi," commanded by General Grant. Here he remained until his death in battle. On October 3, 1862, at about three o'clock P.M. in the battle before Corinth, he was on horseback at the head of his brigade when he received a gunshot wound across the throat, rendering utterance difficult. He was taken to the Tishomingo House at Corinth. He died the same evening about nine o'clock P.M. His last audible words were "I am dying, but I am dying for my country."

In 1923 the cabin where General Hackleman was born was brought to Rushville, where it was reconstructed to honor his memory. It is located on city-owned land at the east edge of the fair grounds. The cabin is cared for by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who have furnished it with authentic furnishings and placed a plaque listing General Hackleman's achievements against its log walls.

ROBERT E. MANSFIELD

Priscilla Offutt Winkler

Robert Emmet Mansfield was born June 13, 1866, in Delaware County, Indiana, son of Robert G. Mansfield (who was born in Ohio, August 13, 1818. A schoolteacher, stockman and a man of fine intellectual attainments of Welsh and Scotch descent. Died March 13, 1873) and Margaret Thornburg Mansfield (daughter of Asael Thornburg and Rebecca Stanberry, Dutch and Irish descent). He received his education in the public schools of Muncie and when nineteen years of age became associated with William H. Elliott, owner and editor of the New Castle Courier, where he began his career as writer and editor, which became his life work. While there he studied law and was admitted to the bar, but never practiced in that profession, using his knowledge only in his other relations in business. The first year of his majority he was elected clerk of the city of New Castle. Deprived of a college education, by study he qualified himself for service in later life, having a thoroughly disciplined mind and discriminating judgement.

He possessed exceptional facility of expression, his style was facile, terse and entertaining. This natural talent manifested itself in his writings through his career as editor, author, contributor to various publications, and in his government reports during a long period of years spent in the American Consular service. (1899-1917). He was editor of the Muncie Times, city editor of the Indianapolis Journal, editor and owner of the Marion News.

His activities included politics, and in 1896 he was elected Secretary of the Republican State Central Committee.

He was a good speaker, his style being more conversational than oratorical. He was often called upon to speak on patriotic occasions, during his career as Consul-General, and as a citizen at home in his activities in Indiana.

He was married April 17, 1906 to Miss Fanny Alice Gowdy, daughter of ex-Consul General and Mrs. John K. Gowdy, at their home in Rushville, Indiana.

He was appointed Consul to:

Zanzibar May 25, 1899. Assumed charge September 23, 1899.

Valparaiso, Chile, March 27, 1901. Assumed charge July 1, 1901.

Lucerne, Switzerland, June 22, 1906. Assumed charge October 1, 1906.

St. Gall, Switzerland, June 10, 1908. Assumed charge September 1, 1908.

Zurich, Switzerland, February 17, 1909. Assumed charge March 12, 1909.

Vancouver, Canada, September 29, 1913. Assumed charge February 23, 1914.

Stockholm, Sweden July 8, 1916.

Resigned November 28, effective December 31, 1916.

On his resignation from the Consular service 1916 he established his residence at Rushville, Indiana, where he took an active part in all community affairs. He gave much of his time during the World War to Red Cross work and wrote during that period: Rush County War Activities, 1861 to 1918,—At home and in the Field. He was the author of "Progressive Chile," and numerous other contributions to magazines and newspapers.

He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Knights of Pythias, and Elks Lodges.

He died September 18, 1925.

SAMUEL BIGGER

Patti Whipple

On March 20, 1802, Samuel Bigger was born in Warren County, Ohio. He was the oldest son of John Bigger who was a Western pioneer from Pennsylvania and a member of the Ohio legislature for many years.

Samuel loved books more than farm work and his feelings always remained this way.

When he was eighteen, he almost died after contracting a bad cold which settled in his lungs. His weak health left him unfitted for manual labor. Therefore, his father's decision was that Sam needed a profession.

After preparing for college in his neighborhood, he went on to graduate with honors from Athens University in Ohio. He studied law in Lebanon, Ohio, and moved to Liberty, Indiana, in 1829 to practice law.

He then married Ellen (sometimes referred to as Edith) Williamson on May 20, 1830. A short time later they moved to Rushville, where their house was built northeast of town on a bluff overlooking Flatrock Valley. This site is now close to the present Washington School. They never had any children.

He attended the Presbyterian Church where he was Choir director. He had a fine bass singing voice and played the violin skillfully.

In 1834, he was elected as a Rush County representative to the General Assembly. He was re-elected in 1835. Also, he was a candidate for the Speaker of the House which he lost in a close vote. The next year the General Assembly elected him presiding judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court, where he served until his resignation March 29, 1840, following his nomination for governor in 1840.

He was nominated as the candidate for governor at the Whig State Convention. His running mate was Samuel Hall. He defeated General Tilghman of Park County and became the last Whig governor. His term was from 1840 to 1843.

After his term as governor was over, he moved to Fort Wayne to practice law. Five years later he died there. His body was buried in Fort Wayne.

JOHN KENNEDY GOWDY

Priscilla Offutt Winkler

He was born at Arlington, then Burlington, Rush County, Indiana, August 23, 1843, son of Adam McConnell Gowdy (who was born in 1809 near Bellebrook, Green County, Ohio, son of Andrew Gowdy, born in Pennsylvania in 1777, and Mary McConnell Gowdy of Pennsylvania. Died February 21, 1857) and Nancy Oliver Gowdy (born June 1, 1807, in Fleming County, Kentucky, daughter of John Oliver and Jane Hill Oliver. Moved to Rush County with her parents in October, 1827. Married to Adam McConnell Gowdy, September 28, 1829. Died September 3, 1882). Mr. Gowdy was educated in public schools.

He enlisted September 1, 1862, at Lafayette, Indiana, in Company L, 5th Indiana Vounteer Cavalry and served until October 5, 1865, when he was mustered out with his regiment at Pulaski, Tennessee. He served with his regiment through Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky in the pursuit and capture of John Morgan; served under General Burnsides during winter of 1863-'64 and under General Sherman during the Georgia campaign.

January 24, 1867, he was married to Miss Eve E. Gordon, daughter of Uriah Gordon (who was born in Fleming County, Kentucky, December 24, 1816. Moved to Rush County with his parents fall of 1822. Died March 18, 1895) and Priscilla McDuffie Gordon, (daughter of Rev. Gabriel C. McDuffie, pioneer minister of the church of the Disciples, who moved from Bourbon County, Kentucky, to Rush County, and there established three churches of that denomination. Her mother was Priscilla Evans McDuffie.)

Mr. Gowdy was elected Sheriff of Rush County in 1870, serving two terms, until 1875. He was elected Auditor of Rush County 1883, renominated by acclamation and re-elected, serving two terms, until 1891.

He served as chairman of Rush County Republican Committee, 1880 to 1890, and as chairman of the Indiana Republican State Committee January 1891, to April, 1897.

Mr. Gowdy was appointed by President McKinley Consul-General to Paris, France, March 20, 1897, and served until October 1, 1905. He was made Officer of the Legion of Honor by the French government and rendered distinguished service to his country during his term of office, which covered the period of the Spanish-American War, the meeting in Paris of the commission which arranged the terms of peace between Spain and the United States, the Exposition of 1900, and the transfer of the Panama Canal property to the United States.

He gave special assistance in locating the body of John Paul Jones, whose remains were found located in a Paris cemetery, disinterred and returned to his native country under naval escort, and buried at Annapolis with naval honors.

July 3, 1900, he delivered the address presenting the statue of George Washington at Place d'Iena, Paris, a gift of the American people to the French Government.

He resigned as Consul-General, and returned October 20, 1905, to his home in Rushville, where he spent the remainder of his life.

He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Masonic and I.O.O.F. lodges.

Mr. Gowdy died, June 25, 1918.

KNOWLES SHAW

Marla Veatch

Knowles Shaw, author of many religious tunes, was born October 13, 1834, in Butler County, Ohio, to Alban and Huldah Griffeth Shaw. After moving to Rush County in the latter part of 1834, the family settled on the Dave Alter farm, 1½ miles south of the Big Flatrock Church.

With his father dying when Shaw was 13 years old, he entered into the pioneer life early. When his father died his last words to his son were "Prepare to meet thy God."

Shaw's mother married James Whitinger, Sr., a violinist and music teacher from whom Knowles received his first instruction in music. The family then moved to a farm across from the Big Flatrock Church.

During this time Shaw begin to play his violin for many dances. One night he suddenly thought of his father's last words to him and he immediately realized he was leading a frivolous life and that he had no ideal to attain in life. From that night on he never played at another dance.

Shaw was baptized by Elder George Thomas in Mud Creek on September 13, 1852, after attending many gospel meetings preached by Elder Gabriel McDuffey of Arlington.

He preached his first sermon in Big Flatrock Christian Church, being ordained later in the Christian Church in Milroy.

Shaw had some very interesting characteristics such as his ability to do very unusual tasks and his strong will power, but also he had tender emotions and sympathy, and a great devotion to the cause of Christ.

He wrote and put to music 114 gospel songs from which he published 5 songbooks. Nearly every song he wrote was based on scripture and was supplemented with great spiritual power. His most famous song "Bringing in the Sheaves" came from Psalms 126:6. The words are picturing the harvest.

Shaw was killed on June 7, 1878, in Texas after closing a meeting when the train he was riding struck a broken rail which in turn threw it off the track and down an embankment. He was buried in Rushville in the East Hill Cemetery.

JUDGE WILL M. SPARKS

Kathy McDaniel

Will Sparks was born on April 28, 1872, at Charlottesville, Indiana. In 1880, the family moved to Carthage, Indiana, where he attended school, graduating from Carthage High School. He was a graduate of DePauw Unversity and a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He attended Indiana University Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1896.

On November 23, 1897, he was united in marriage with Della Young. They were the parents of two children, a son William, and a daughter, Dorothy Sparks Foster.

After he was admitted to the bar, Judge Sparks began practice of law in Rushville, where he continued to live and practice his profession, until and except during the time he served as Judge of the Circuit Court. Soon after entering the practice of Law, Will Sparks was appointed deputy prosecuting attorney. He served the position for two years.

Judge Sparks was elected to the Indiana Legislature as Representative for Rush County in 1901. In 1903 he was re-elected to the Legislature. In 1904 Judge Sparks was elected judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Court, which comprised Rush and Shelby Counties. After defeat in the 1910 election for the office he had previously held, Judge Sparks once again took up practice of law in Rushville.

In 1913 the Indiana Legislature created a separate circuit for Rush County and in 1914 Judge Sparks was nominated for judge of the newly created circuit, and served that position for the next four terms.

During the time he served as judge of the local court, extending over a period of 21 years, Judge Sparks created and maintained in his court a judicial atmosphere that has been cause for favorable comment on the part of the attorney's, not only in Rush County, but in all parts of the state.

Judge Sparks

Judge Spark's courage, his firmness, and his faculty for the dispatch of business won for him the reputation of being one of the most successful, as well as one of the most popular jurists in the state. He was also well and favorably known for the ability shown in his opinions, very few of which were ever reversed on appeal.

The most notable of Judge Sparks' cases was the trial of D. C. Stephenson, former Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, who was tried and convicted on a murder charge in Hamilton county in 1925, in connection with the death of Miss Madge Oberholtzer, an Indianapolis woman.

In 1929 Judge Sparks was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals at Chicago. There he served that position until November 20, 1948, when he retired and returned to Rushville, where he lived until he died on Jan. 7, 1950.

Successful as his career as lawyer, legislator and judge had been, and as much as his legions of friends admired his many fine qualities as jurist and public speaker, he was most admired and appreciated by his home friends and neighbors for what he represented in the life of Rushville and Rush County.

MARY EFFIE MARSTERS— TEACHER—HUMANITARIAN

Jean Green

Mary (Coleman) Marsters, teacher, humanitarian, was a member of one of America's noblest experiments in democratic self-government.

She participated in the role of peacemaker in a conquered country. She pioneered in women's liberation. She brought culture, education, and dignity to women who had accepted domination through the centuries. She brought friendship and enlightment to this country and assisted in showing these people the advantages of democracy by putting self government in action.

After the United States gained the protectorship of the Phillippine Islands in 1901, eight languages were spoken on the various Islands. Different tribes had their own system of government. Women had no status outside the home.

Instead of using military force the United States sent teachers into this primitive country. A normal school was established to train Philippino teachers. Women were invited to attend. The first American woman teacher sent to the Islands was Mary Effie Marsters.

She was sent to teach English and History, to girls who spoke only Spanish and dialect. After her first year she realized that girls from better homes would never attend a Normal School unless a well-chaperoned dormitory was available. She served as Dean of Women in this newly established college. Not only did she guide the girls in their scholastic life but she was their chaperone, advisor, and friend. She encouraged them to continue in education and enter the professional world.

Mrs. Marsters when she was honored in the Philippines

She established the first Women's Dormitory, taught the first courses in domestic science, established rules for public health and good sanitation. She administered the first school of nursing at the Phillippine General Hospital. Her students became leaders in government and in the professions. (During World War II, one of her students was wife of the President of the Phillippines and during the occupation, they visited the Marsters in Rush County.)

After eight years in the Philippines, she returned to the States, taught in Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, and was later business manager of the World Book Co. In 1914 she married Vernon Marsters, a geologist fom Nova Scotia. After several years in South America they returned to make their permanent home in Rush County.

In the spring of 1951, at the expense of the Philippine government, she was flown to the Islands to accept the degree of Doctor of Pedagogy Honoris Cousa at the Commencement Exercises at the Philippine Women's University at Manilla.

Honor and gratitude were showered on her by the government, by the University, and the medical and nursing professions. Her former students met her at the airport and came from all provinces to parties and testimonial dinners. She was acclaimed as a national "hero".

Mary was born on a farm 4 miles NE of Rushville, the daughter of Joseph and Emily (Kennedy) Coleman. She was the oldest of five children. Her father died when she was 12 from injuries received during the Civil War. He left the family little money but gained from each a promise to receive as much education as possible.

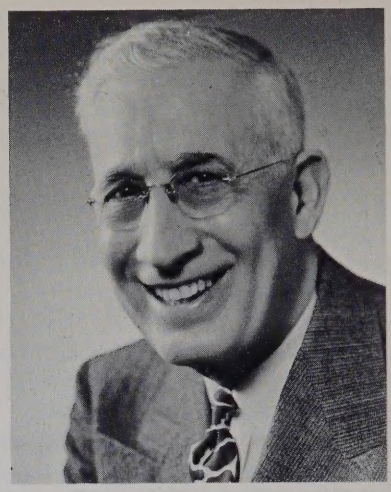
Her early education began in a one room school house known as the Blacklidge School in Union Township. She graduated from Ging School and started teaching at the age of 16. By alternating teaching and college she was able to graduate from Indiana University with honors and received her Master's degree in 1901.

In the New Salem School she was the first woman in Rush County to serve as principal of a high school.

Each of the Coleman children graduated from college. Will graduated from Medical School. Henrietta taught art in the Rushville High School for many years. Angela married and moved to Indianapolis. Tom had a very successful career at Purdue University working with Extension work. In June, 1913, the Department of Agriculture required men to arrange and develop the system of agricultural agents for every county. Tom Coleman was appointed the first Indiana State Leader of county agents. Later, in 1920, he was advanced to assistant director of all Extension work, and in 1929 he was appointed the Associate Director. Much of our extension work as we know it today was pioneered by him.

JESS MOREN PUGH

Mary Poe Wilson



Mr. Pugh

Mr. Pugh was born in Rush County in 1879, the son of Joseph R. M. and Caroline Daniels Pugh. At the time of his marriage to Jeannette Hogsett, he was employed at the Rush County Bank. He was known locally as a good entertainer and decided that he had a future in the acting field.

Jess went to Chicago to study with Professor Day and was soon booked with the Redpath Lyceum Bureau, with Lyceum programs in the winter and Chautauqua in the summer. From 1908 through 1926 he continued his career with both the Redpath and the Vawter Circuits.

Two local girls were accompanists and soloists at different times during these years, the first being Martha Marr Hogsett, his sister-in-law, and later Mary Louise Poe, his niece.

When Lyceum programs were no longer in demand Jess taught dramatic art at the Horner Institute of Fine Arts in Kansas City, Missouri and traveled with Chautauqua in the summer.

Radio changed the entire picture for traveling entertainers so in the 1920's and for many years following, Jess became a well known radio entertainer, his most famous role being that of Scattergood Baines on the Wrigley show in Chicago. He had many roles in TV also, but retired in the early 1950's.

While on Chautauqua, he performed on the local program. Some of his best remembered stories were "The Balky Mule", "The Hog Calling Contest", and "The Picture Show." He had a very fine baritone voice in addition to his excellent story telling.

Mr. Pugh died in 1962 and is buried in East Hill Cemetery.

JOE COTTON

Jean Green

Col. Joe Cotton, a graduate of Manilla High School, was acclaimed nationally as the "pilot of the year" in 1966. He was featured in Life Magazine on June 14 and November 11, 1966.

He was one of the men who designed, built, and flew the X B 70 airplane and spent nine years in total dedication to the task. He was presented a citation by the State Legislature of California for this outstanding contribution to aviation.

Col. Cotton joined the airforce after graduation from high school and on his first mission in World War II, had his plane shot down over Greece. He was smuggled out by friendly natives to his air base. He started testing planes in England and on his return to the states became a test pilot, correcting any trouble in plane design and plane construction.

He is married to the former Rema (Cissy) Nelson of Arlington and is the father of three children, Chris, Connie Joe, and Candy Cotton. He retired from the airforce in 1968 and is at present testing DC 10's and 747's for United Airlines.

DR. JOSEPH E. WALTHER

Jean Green

Dr. Joseph E. Walther, the son of Dr. Joseph and Winona McCampbell Walther, was awarded the distinguished alumnus award by the Alumni Association of Rushville High School in 1960.

Dr. Walther received his medical degree from the I. U. School of Medicine in 1936 and served as flight surgeon during World War II. During his six years of active duty in the South Pacific, he received an air medal for participation in more than 15 combat missions at Guadalcanal and New Guinea and the Bronze Star for heroism at Iwo Jima.

He is a Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners and a Life Fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology and is its immediate past president.

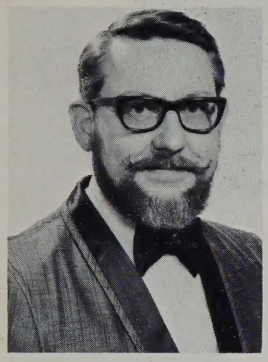
In February of 1956, the Winona Memorial Clinic, a 25 bed hospital was completed in Indianapolis and dedicated to his mother. It was enlarged 5 years later and is at present a 401 bed hospital.

Dr. Walther serves as president and founder of the Winona Memorial Foundation (owner of the 401 bed voluntary non-profit hospital) from 1947-1972. He is director of the Clinic, and assistant professor of Medicine at the Indiana-Purdue University School of Medicine.

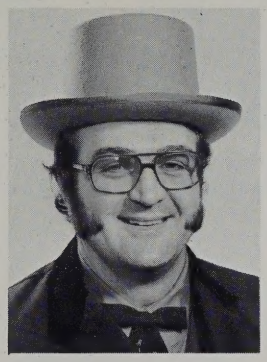
He is married to the former Mary Margaret Ruddell and is the father of six children.

1972 RUSH COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

OFFICERS



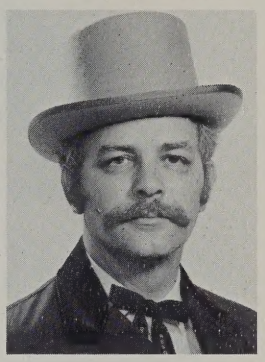
President
Thomas Buckley



Vice-President
Richard Eckel

Executive Secretary
Helen Moore

Assistant Secretary
Ellendore Lampton



Treasurer
Robert Priddy

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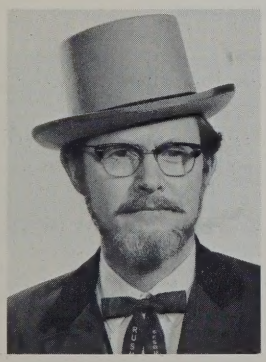
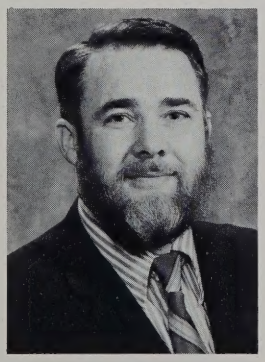
John Hughes, Rushville
Father James Dooley, Rushville
John S. Green, Rushville
Bob Waggener, Homer
Bill Moore, Arlington
Lowell Hinchman, Glenwood
Al Zukunft, County Extension Office
Al Weber, Mays
Joe Archer, Falmouth
Jack Tweedy, Carthage
Phil Carter, Milroy
Mabel Thompson, Moscow
Lois Rose, New Salem
Marjorie Carmony, Manilla

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



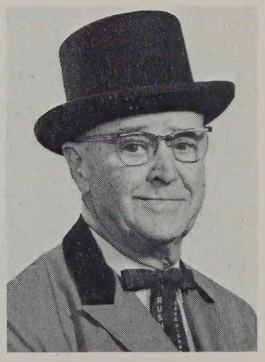
Decorations
Melvin Gray



Operating Capital
Robert Van Huss

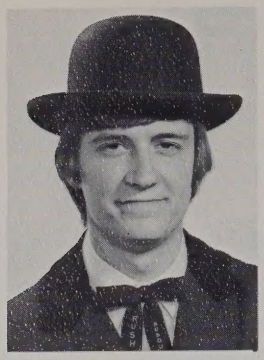
Insurance
James Payne

Insurance
Wilma Wainwright



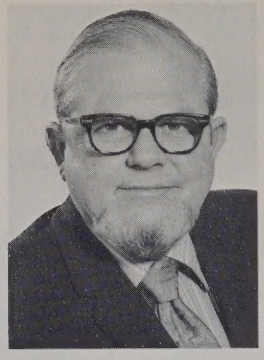
Revenue Division
Wilbur Gray

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Continued

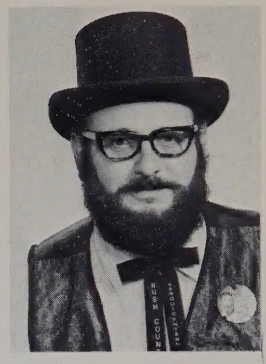


Student Activities
Brynolf Lyons

Student Activities
Carol Mann



Men's Participation
Division—Earl Dean



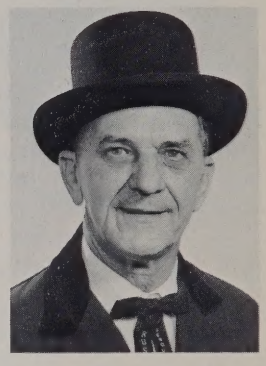
Brothers of the Brush
Bobby Matthews

Women's Participation
Div.—Leah Flint

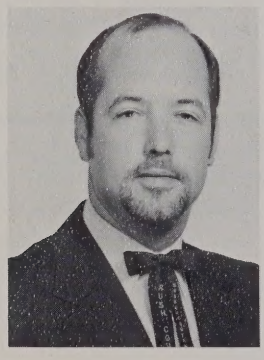
Women's Participation
Div.—Lucille Waggoner

Sesquicentennial
Belles—Judy Ralson

Commemorative
Booklet—Eleanor Arnold



Spectacle Ticket Division
Harold Michel



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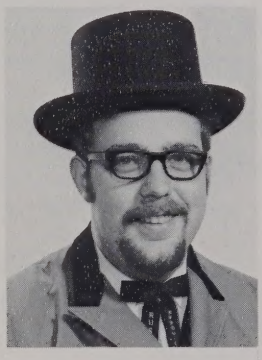
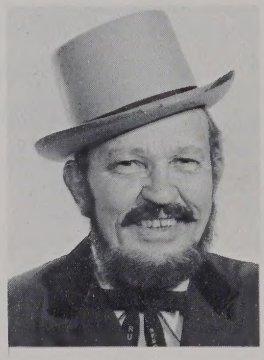
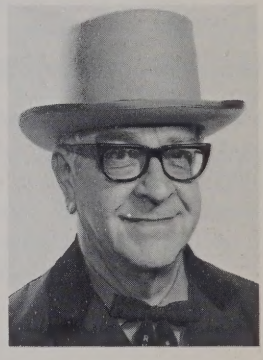
Gary Milam



Spectacle Division
Al Hodge

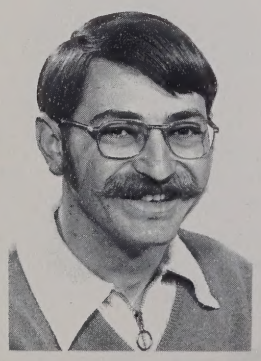


Spectacle Division
James Scott



Publicity Division
A. Hartwell Coons

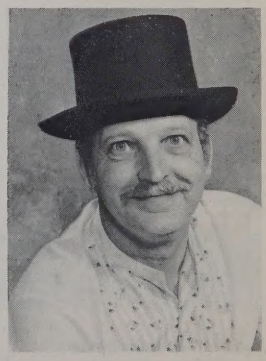
Press Release
Jean Green



Radio and TV
Tom Borshoff

Radio and TV
Lee Crane

Special Events Division
Ed Roehling



Special Events Division
William Johnson

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